

This Preliminary Official Statement and the information contained herein are subject to completion and amendment. Under no circumstances shall this Preliminary Official Statement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. As of this date, this Preliminary Official Statement has been deemed "final" by the School District for purposes of SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(1) except for the omission of certain information permitted by SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(1).

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

**NEW ISSUE—Book-Entry-Only**

**RATINGS†\***: S&P Global Ratings AA / A+  
Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program / Underlying

*In the opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., Bond Counsel, under existing law, (i) the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof, (ii) interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the extent and subject to the conditions described herein, and (iii) interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax to the extent and subject to the conditions described herein. See "TAX MATTERS" herein.*



**\$6,965,000\*\***  
**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
**COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**2026 REFUNDING BONDS**  
**(GENERAL OBLIGATION - UNLIMITED TAX)**

**Dated: Date of Delivery**

**Due: May 1, as shown below**

The 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation – Unlimited Tax) (the "Bonds") were authorized by the Board of Education of the Sparta Area Schools, Counties of Kent and Ottawa, State of Michigan (the "School District") by resolutions adopted on December 8, 2025 and expected to be adopted on March \_\_, 2026 (together, the "Resolutions"). The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of a prior bond issue of the School District. The Bonds will pledge the full faith and credit of the School District for payment of the principal and interest thereon and will be payable from ad valorem taxes, which may be levied on all taxable property in the School District without limitation as to rate or amount.

THE BONDS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS "QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS" AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 265(b)(3)(C)(ii) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED. See "QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS" herein.

The Bonds are expected to be fully qualified as of the date of delivery for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program pursuant to Act 92, Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended, enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the School District will be or is unable to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds when due, the School District shall borrow and the State of Michigan shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the School District to make the payment. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," herein.

The Bonds are issuable only as fully registered bonds without coupons and, when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as Bondholder and nominee for The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York. DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Purchases of beneficial interests in the Bonds will be made in book-entry-only form in the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Purchasers of beneficial interests in the Bonds (the "Beneficial Owners") will not receive certificates representing their beneficial interest in Bonds purchased. So long as Cede & Co. is the Bondholder, as nominee of DTC, references herein to the Bondholders or registered owners shall mean Cede & Co., as aforesaid, and shall not mean the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds. See "THE BONDS—Book-Entry-Only System" herein.

Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid by the corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan (the "Paying Agent"). So long as DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., is the Bondholder, such payments will be made directly to such Bondholder. Disbursement of such payments to DTC's Direct Participants is the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of DTC's Direct Participants and Indirect Participants, as more fully described herein. Interest will be payable semiannually on November 1 and May 1, commencing November 1, 2026 to the Bondholders of record as of the applicable record dates as stated in the Bonds.

(Base CUSIP\$: \_\_\_\_\_)

<b>Maturity**</b>	<b>Amount**</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>CUSIP\$</b>	<b>Maturity**</b>	<b>Amount**</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>CUSIP\$</b>
2027	\$1,915,000				2029	\$2,065,000			
2028	2,020,000				2030	965,000			

THE BONDS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION PRIOR TO MATURITY. See "THE BONDS — No Prior Redemption" herein.

The Bonds will be offered when, as and if issued by the School District and accepted by the Underwriter subject to the approving legal opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan, Bond Counsel. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Underwriter by Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., Detroit, Michigan. It is expected that the Bonds will be available for delivery through DTC on or about March \_\_, 2026.

This cover page contains certain information for quick reference only. It is not a summary of this issue. Investors must read the entire Official Statement to obtain information essential to the making of an informed investment decision.



The date of this Official Statement is March \_\_, 2026.

† For an explanation of the ratings, see "RATINGS" herein.

\* As of date of delivery.

\*\* Preliminary, subject to change.

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No dealer, broker, salesperson or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than as contained in this Official Statement in connection with the offer made hereby and, if given or made, such other information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the School District or the Underwriter. This Official Statement and the information contained herein are subject to completion and amendment. These securities may not be sold nor may an offer to buy these securities be accepted prior to the time the Official Statement is delivered in final form. Under no circumstances shall this Official Statement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

Information herein has been obtained from the School District, The Depository Trust Company and other sources believed to be reliable. The Underwriter has reviewed the information in this Official Statement in accordance with, and as part of, its responsibility to investors under the federal securities laws as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction, but the Underwriter does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information (except for information under the section captioned "UNDERWRITING," which was obtained from the Underwriter).

Upon issuance, the Bonds will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any state securities law and will not be listed on any stock or other securities exchange. Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other federal, state, municipal or other governmental entity or agency will have passed upon the adequacy of this Official Statement, or, except for the School District and the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan, approved the Bonds for sale.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING, THE UNDERWRITER MAY OVERALLOT OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS THAT STABILIZE OR MAINTAIN THE MARKET PRICE OF THE BONDS AT A LEVEL ABOVE THAT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL IN THE OPEN MARKET. SUCH STABILIZING, IF COMMENCED, MAY BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, INVESTORS MUST RELY ON THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFERING, INCLUDING THE MERITS AND RISKS INVOLVED. THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED BY ANY FEDERAL OR STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY. FURTHERMORE, THE FOREGOING AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OR DETERMINED THE ADEQUACY OF THIS DOCUMENT. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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Mark Alster, Secretary  
Kim Eluskie, Treasurer  
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Tim Driscoll, Trustee

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION .....	1
PURPOSE AND SECURITY .....	1
QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS .....	1
QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN .....	1
PLAN OF REFUNDING .....	2
ESTIMATED SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS .....	2
THE BONDS .....	2
Description and Form of the Bonds .....	2
Book-Entry-Only System .....	3
Transfer Outside Book-Entry-Only System .....	5
No Prior Redemption .....	5
TAX PROCEDURES .....	5
LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND BONDHOLDERS' REMEDIES .....	6
SOURCES OF SCHOOL OPERATING REVENUE .....	6
MICHIGAN PROPERTY TAX REFORM .....	8
LITIGATION .....	8
TAX MATTERS .....	8
State .....	8
Federal .....	9
Original Issue Premium .....	9
Original Issue Discount .....	9
Future Developments .....	10
APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS .....	10
APPROVAL BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY .....	10
RATINGS .....	11
UNDERWRITING .....	11
MUNICIPAL ADVISOR'S OBLIGATION .....	12
CONTINUING DISCLOSURE .....	12
OTHER MATTERS .....	13
APPENDIX A: State Qualification	
APPENDIX B: General Financial, Economic and School Information	
APPENDIX C: General Fund Budget Summary and Comparative Financial Statements	
APPENDIX D: Audited Financial Statements and Notes to Financial Statements of the School District for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025	
APPENDIX E: Form of Approving Opinion	
APPENDIX F: Form of Continuing Disclosure Agreement	

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**relating to**  
  
**\$6,965,000<sup>1</sup>**  
**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
**COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**2026 REFUNDING BONDS**  
**(GENERAL OBLIGATION – UNLIMITED TAX)**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Official Statement, which includes the cover page and Appendices, is to furnish information in connection with the issuance and sale by Sparta Area Schools, Counties of Kent and Ottawa, State of Michigan (the "School District") of its 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the "Bonds") in the principal amount of \$6,965,000<sup>1</sup>.

**PURPOSE AND SECURITY**

The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of the School District's outstanding 2016 Refunding Bonds, dated August 10, 2016, which are due and payable May 1, 2027 through May 1, 2030, inclusive (the "Prior Bonds"); and paying the costs of issuing the Bonds.

The Bonds, as authorized for issuance by the resolutions of the Board of Education of the School District adopted on December 8, 2025 and expected to be adopted on March \_\_, 2026 (together, the "Resolutions"), are a full faith and credit unlimited tax general obligation of the School District. The principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable from the proceeds of ad valorem taxes levied on all taxable property in the School District which may be levied without limitation as to rate or amount. As of the date of delivery, the Bonds are expected to be fully qualified for participation in the State of Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

**QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS**

THE BONDS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS "QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS" UNDER SECTION 265(b)(3)(C)(ii) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED.

**QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

An application will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury to obtain, and it is the School District's expectation that the Bonds will receive, final qualification as of the date of delivery to participate in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program pursuant to Act 92 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended ("Act 92"), enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the School District will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds when due, the School District shall borrow and the State of Michigan (the "State") shall lend to it from the School Loan Revolving Fund (the "School Loan Revolving Fund") established by the State, an amount sufficient to enable the School District to make the payment. Article IX, Section 16 of the State Constitution as implemented by Act 112 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1961, as amended, authorizes the State, without approval of its electors, to borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge the State's full faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided under such section. Loans to school districts for such purposes are made from the proceeds of such State borrowing. See APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

Complete financial statements of all of the State's funds as included in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report ("ACFR") prepared by the State's Office of the State Budget are available

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

from the Budget website: [www.michigan.gov/budget](http://www.michigan.gov/budget). The State has agreed to file its ACFR with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (as described in Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) of the Securities and Exchange Commission) annually, so long as any bonds qualified for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program remain outstanding.

### **PLAN OF REFUNDING**

A portion of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used to pay certain costs of issuance relating to the refunding of the Prior Bonds and to establish an escrow fund (the "Escrow Fund") composed of cash and non-callable direct obligations of, or obligations the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America or other obligations the principal of and interest on which are fully secured by the foregoing. The Escrow Fund will be held by the corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") and will be used to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds at call for redemption. The Escrow Fund will be held by the Escrow Agent pursuant to an escrow agreement (the "Escrow Agreement") which irrevocably directs the Escrow Agent to make the payment of principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds at call for redemption. The Escrow Fund will be such that the cash and the principal of and interest payments received on investments will be sufficient, without reinvestment except as provided in the Escrow Agreement, to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds as they are called for early redemption, as set forth in the following table.

#### **Principal of and Interest on the Prior Bonds to be paid from the Escrow Fund<sup>1</sup>**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
05/01/2026	\$7,130,000.00	\$142,600.00	\$7,272,600.00

The accuracy of the mathematical computations of the adequacy of the cash and certain obligations to be held in the Escrow Fund and used, together with the earnings thereon, to pay the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds at call for redemption and supporting the conclusion of Bond Counsel that the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes as indicated under the caption "TAX MATTERS" herein, will be verified by Robert Thomas CPA, LLC, Overland Park, Kansas (the "Verification Agent"). Such verification of accuracy of the computations shall be based upon information supplied by the Underwriter and the interpretations of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as provided by Bond Counsel.

### **ESTIMATED SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS**

#### **SOURCES**

- Par Amount of the Bonds
- Original Issue Premium
- Original Issue Discount
- Total Sources

#### **USES**

- Escrow Fund
- Underwriter's Discount
- Costs of Issuance for the Bonds
- Total Uses

### **THE BONDS**

#### **Description and Form of the Bonds**

The Bonds will be issued in book-entry-only form as one fully registered Bond per maturity, without coupons, in the aggregate principal amount for each maturity set forth on the cover page hereof and may be

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

purchased in denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. The Bonds will be dated as of, and bear interest from, the date of issuance. Interest on the Bonds shall be payable semiannually each November 1 and May 1 to maturity, commencing November 1, 2026. Interest on the Bonds shall be computed using a 360-day year with twelve 30-day months, and the Bonds will mature on the dates and in the principal amounts and will bear interest at the rates as set forth on the cover of this Official Statement.

The corporate trust office of Argent Institutional Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, will serve as the paying agent (the "Paying Agent") and also as bond registrar and transfer agent if the Bonds cease to be held in book-entry-only form. Interest on the Bonds shall be payable when due by check or draft to the person or entity who or which is, as of the fifteenth (15th) day of the month preceding each interest payment date, the registered owner of record, at the owner's registered address. For a description of payment of principal and interest, transfers, exchanges on the Bonds, which are held in the book-entry-only system, see "Book-Entry-Only System" below. For a description of transfers and exchanges on the Bonds if the Bonds cease to be held in book-entry-only form, see "Transfer Outside Book-Entry-Only System" below.

### **Book-Entry-Only System**

The information in this section has been furnished by The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"). No representation is made by the School District, the Paying Agent or the Underwriter as to the completeness or accuracy of such information or as to the absence of material adverse changes in such information subsequent to the date hereof. No attempt has been made by the School District, the Paying Agent or the Underwriter to determine whether DTC is or will be financially or otherwise capable of fulfilling its obligations. Neither the School District nor the Paying Agent will have any responsibility or obligation to Direct Participants, Indirect Participants (both as defined below) or the persons for which they act as nominees with respect to the Bonds, or for any principal, premium, if any, or interest payment thereof.

DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee), or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds, each in the aggregate principal amount of such maturity and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC System is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). DTC has a Standard & Poor's rating of AA+. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are,

however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of the notices be provided directly to them.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the Bonds within a maturity are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such maturity to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor such other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the School District as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Payments of principal and interest and redemption amounts, if any, on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detailed information from the School District or Paying Agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC nor its nominee, Paying Agent, or the School District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payments of principal, interest and redemption amounts, if any, to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) are the responsibility of the School District or Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the School District or Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The School District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered.

### **Transfer Outside Book-Entry-Only System**

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued, the Paying Agent shall keep the registration books for the Bonds (the "Bond Register") at its corporate trust office. Subject to the further conditions contained in the Resolutions, the Bonds may be transferred or exchanged for one or more Bonds in different authorized denominations upon surrender thereof at the corporate trust office of the Paying Agent by the registered owners or their duly authorized attorneys; upon surrender of any Bonds to be transferred or exchanged, the Paying Agent shall record the transfer or exchange in the Bond Register and shall authenticate replacement bonds in authorized denominations; the School District and the Paying Agent shall be entitled to treat the registered owners of the Bonds, as their names appear in the Bond Register as of the appropriate dates, as the owners of such Bonds for all purposes under the Resolutions. No transfer or exchange made other than as described above and in the Resolutions shall be valid or effective for any purposes under the Resolutions.

### **No Prior Redemption**

The Bonds are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

## **TAX PROCEDURES**

Article IX, Section 3, of the Michigan Constitution provides that the proportion of true cash value at which property shall be assessed shall not exceed 50% of true cash value. The Michigan Legislature by statute has provided that property shall be assessed at 50% of its true cash value, except as described below. The Michigan Legislature or the electorate may at some future time reduce the percentage below 50% of true cash value.

On March 15, 1994, the electors of the State of Michigan approved an amendment to the Michigan Constitution permitting the Legislature to authorize ad valorem taxes on a non-uniform basis. The legislation implementing this constitutional amendment added a new measure of property value known as "Taxable Value." Beginning in 1995, taxable property has two valuations -- State equalized valuation ("SEV") and Taxable Value. Property taxes are levied on Taxable Value. Generally, Taxable Value of property is the lesser of (a) the Taxable Value of the property in the immediately preceding year, adjusted for losses, and increased or reduced by the lesser of the inflation rate or 5%, plus additions, or (b) the property's current SEV. Under certain circumstances, therefore, the Taxable Value of property may be different from the same property's SEV.

When property is sold or transferred, Taxable Value is adjusted to the SEV, which under existing law is 50% of the current true cash value. The Taxable Value of new construction is equal to current SEV. Taxable Value and SEV of existing property are also adjusted annually for additions and losses.

Responsibility for assessing taxable property rests with the local assessing officer of each township and city. Any property owner may appeal the assessment to the local board of review, the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and ultimately to the Michigan appellate courts.

The Michigan Constitution also mandates a system of equalization for assessments. Although the assessors for each local unit of government within a county are responsible for actually assessing at 50% of true cash value, adjusted for Taxable Value purposes, the final SEV and Taxable Value are arrived at through several steps. Assessments are established initially by the municipal assessor. Municipal assessments are then equalized to the 50% levels as determined by the county's department of equalization. Thereafter, the State equalizes the various counties in relation to each other. SEV is important, aside from its use in determining Taxable Value for the purpose of levying ad valorem property taxes, because of its role in the spreading of taxes between overlapping jurisdictions, the distribution of various State aid programs, State revenue sharing and in the calculation of debt limits.

Property that is exempt from property taxes, e.g., churches, government property, public schools, is not included in the SEV and Taxable Value data in the Official Statement. Property granted tax abatements under Act 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, amended, is recorded on a separate tax roll while subject to tax abatement. The valuation of tax-abated property is based upon SEV but is not included in either the SEV

or Taxable Value data in the Official Statement except as noted. Under limited circumstances, other State laws permit the partial abatement of certain taxes for other types of property for periods of up to 12 years.

### **LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND BONDHOLDERS' REMEDIES**

The Resolutions authorizing the issuance of the Bonds and State law obligate the School District to levy a tax annually in an amount sufficient so that the estimated collections therefrom, together with other amounts, if any, to be borrowed from the School Loan Revolving Fund for the Bonds, will be sufficient to pay promptly when due the principal of and interest on the Bonds becoming due prior to the time of the next tax levy. The tax levy shall not be subject to limitation as to rate or amount. Taxes for the payment of the principal of or interest on the Bonds are certified for collection each year with the school tax levies. In the event of the failure of the proper officials to certify taxes for the payment of the principal and interest requirements, a timely action in the nature of mandamus could compel certification and collection of adequate taxes or could compel the School District to make application to borrow the necessary funds from the School Loan Revolving Fund and thus prevent a default. However, if a paying agent for any bonds of the School District qualified for State loans as provided in Article IX, Section 16, of the State Constitution notifies the State Treasurer that the School District has failed to deposit sufficient funds to pay principal and interest on the qualified bonds when due or if a bondholder notifies the State Treasurer that the School District has failed to pay principal or interest on such qualified bonds when due, whether or not the School District has filed a draw request with the State Treasurer, the State Treasurer shall promptly pay the principal or interest on the qualified bonds when due.

If sufficient funds for full payment of debt service on the Bonds do not reach the Paying Agent five business days prior to the debt service payment due date, the Paying Agent will notify the School District of the amount of insufficient funds four business days prior to the due date. In the event that the School District does not immediately resolve the insufficient funds situation, the Paying Agent will notify the Michigan Department of Treasury of the deficiency three business days before the payment due date and the State Treasurer shall make the payment.

Any amount paid by the State Treasurer as described in the preceding paragraphs shall be deemed a loan made to the School District pursuant to the requirements of said Article IX, Section 16, of the State Constitution. Registered owners of the Bonds may attempt to obtain a money judgment against the School District for the principal amount of the Bonds or interest not paid when due and may periodically attempt to enforce the collection of the money judgment by requiring the tax assessing officers for the School District to place the amount of such judgment on the next tax rolls of the School District. The rights of the holders of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof are subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted and their enforcement also may be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases. See APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," in this Official Statement.

### **SOURCES OF SCHOOL OPERATING REVENUE**

On March 15, 1994, the electors of the State of Michigan approved a ballot proposition to amend the State Constitution of 1963, in part, to increase the State sales tax from 4% to 6% as part of a complex plan to restructure the source of funding of public education (K-12) in order to reduce reliance on local property taxes for school operating purposes and to reduce the per pupil finance resource disparities among school districts.

The State school aid package passed by the Legislature as part of the school finance reform legislation instituted a per pupil foundation allowance beginning in fiscal year 1994/95. With the passage of Public Act 48 of 2021, the Legislature eliminated the foundation allowance range in 2021/22 that had been in place since the passage of the school finance reform legislation in 1994. In Public Act 15 of 2025 ("PA 15"), the Legislature established a 2025/26 target foundation allowance of \$10,050 per pupil. In the future, the foundation allowance may be adjusted annually by an index based upon the change in revenues to the State school aid fund and change in the total number of pupils statewide. The foundation allowance is funded by locally raised property taxes plus State school aid. The revenues for the State's contribution to the foundation

allowance are derived from a mix of taxing sources, including, but not limited to, a statewide property tax of 6 mills on all taxable property<sup>1</sup>, a State sales and use tax, a real estate transfer tax and a cigarette tax.

Generally, school districts are required to levy a local property tax of not more than 18 mills or the number of mills levied in 1993 for school operating purposes, whichever is less, on non-homestead properties<sup>2</sup> in order for the school district to receive its per pupil foundation allowance. An intermediate school district may seek voter approval for up to three enhancement mills for distribution to local constituent school districts on a per pupil basis. Proceeds of the enhancement mills are not counted toward the foundation allowance. The Kent Intermediate School District has received voter approval for a 0.9 mill enhancement millage (currently reduced to 0.8498 mill) to be levied through 2026, and approval for a 0.9 mill enhancement millage to be levied from 2027 to 2036, which is distributed to all qualified schools within its boundaries, including the School District, on a per pupil basis. The School District anticipates receiving approximately \$332 per pupil from that millage in 2025/26. Furthermore, school districts whose per pupil foundation allowance in 2025/26 calculates to an amount in excess of \$10,050 are authorized to levy additional millage to obtain the foundation allowance, first by levying such amount of the 18 mills against homestead property<sup>3</sup> as is necessary to hold themselves harmless and, if the 18 mills is insufficient, to then levy such additional mills against all property uniformly as is necessary to obtain the foundation allowance. The School District's 2025/26 per pupil foundation allowance does not exceed \$10,050, and the School District does not levy such additional millage.

State aid appropriations and the payment schedule for State school aid may be changed by the Legislature at any time. If the amount appropriated from the State school aid fund exceeds the amount available for expenditure for a fiscal year, in the absence of overriding legislative action by the Legislature, the State School Aid Act subjects most state aid payable to school districts for that fiscal year to an automatic proration on a per pupil basis in an amount necessary to eliminate the portion of the overage attributable to the appropriation to all school districts. See "STATE AID PAYMENTS" in APPENDIX B.

Public Act 120 of 2024 amended the State School Aid Act for the 2024/25 fiscal year, maintaining the School District's foundation allowance from the previous year at \$9,608 per pupil.

PA 15 amended the State School Aid Act for the 2025/26 fiscal year, increasing the School District's foundation allowance to \$10,050 per pupil.

Pursuant to PA 15, the School District may be eligible to receive various categorical grants for specific purposes, such as special education, "at-risk" students, meal programs, early education, career and technical education programs, and other instructional and non-instructional programs. The annual amendments to the State School Aid Act determine the type and amount of those categorical funds. For further information regarding the School District's receipt of categorical funds for the 2024/25 fiscal year, see the School District's audited financial statements in APPENDIX D.

**THE SOURCES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPERATING REVENUE DO NOT IMPACT THE TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX SCHOOL BONDS AND DO NOT AFFECT THE OBLIGATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO LEVY TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE ON GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE BONDS OFFERED HEREIN.**

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<sup>1</sup> "Taxable property" in this context does not include industrial personal property.

<sup>2</sup> "Non-homestead property" includes all taxable property other than principal residence, qualified agricultural property, qualified forestry property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, and industrial personal property. Commercial personal property, to the extent not otherwise exempt, is exempt from the first 12 mills of not more than 18 mills levied by school districts.

<sup>3</sup> "Homestead property", in this context, means principal residence, qualified agricultural property, qualified forestry property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, certain industrial personal property and certain commercial personal property, to the extent not otherwise exempt.

## **MICHIGAN PROPERTY TAX REFORM**

On November 5, 2013, March 28, 2014, and April 1, 2014, a package of bills amended and replaced legislation enacted in 2012 to phase-out most personal property taxation in Michigan. The bills were contingent on Michigan voters approving a ballot question authorizing a new municipal entity, the Local Community Stabilization Authority ("LCSA"), to levy a local component of the statewide use tax and distribute that revenue to local units of government to offset their revenue losses resulting from the personal property tax reform. On August 5, 2014, voters approved that ballot question.

The bill package, together with the original 2012 legislation, created two new exemptions from the personal property tax. Under the "small taxpayer exemption," the commercial and industrial personal property of each owner with a combined true cash value in a local tax collecting unit of less than \$80,000 became exempt from ad valorem taxes in that collecting unit beginning in 2014, with such threshold being increased by the legislature to a combined true cash value in a local tax collecting unit of less than \$180,000 beginning in 2023. For businesses that do not qualify for the "small taxpayer exemption," all "eligible manufacturing personal property" (personal property used more than 50% of the time in industrial processing or direct integrated support) purchased and placed into service before 2006 or during or after 2013 became exempt beginning in 2016. Taxation on "eligible manufacturing personal property" placed into service after 2006 but before 2013 will be phased-out over time; with the exemption taking effect after the property has been in service for the immediately preceding 10 years. The legislation extends certain personal property tax exemptions and tax abatements for technology parks, industrial facilities and enterprise zones that were to expire after 2012, until the voter approved personal property tax exemptions take effect.

Pursuant to voter approval in August 2014, the legislation also includes a formula to reimburse school districts for 100% of their lost operating millage revenue and lost sinking fund millage revenue. To provide the reimbursement, the legislation reduces the state share of the use tax and authorizes the LCSA to levy a local component of the use tax and distribute that revenue to qualifying local units. However, the reimbursement for the school district's operating millage will come from the State use tax component, which is deposited into the State school aid fund.<sup>1</sup> While the legislation provides reimbursement for prospective school operating losses, pursuant to legislative changes made in 2020, the School District will be reimbursed for debt millage calculated pursuant to a statutory formula.

## **LITIGATION**

The School District has not been served with any litigation, administrative action or proceeding, and to the knowledge of the appropriate officials of the School District no litigation or administrative action or proceeding has been threatened, restraining or enjoining, or seeking to restrain or enjoin, the issuance and delivery of the Bonds, or questioning or contesting the validity of the Bonds or the proceedings or authorities under which they are authorized to be issued, sold, executed and delivered. A certificate to such effect will be delivered to the Underwriter at the time of the original delivery of the Bonds.

## **TAX MATTERS**

### **State**

In the opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan ("Bond Counsel"), based on its examination of the documents described in its opinion, under existing State of Michigan statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof.

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<sup>1</sup> A school district that increases its millage rate, without voter approval, to replace debt millage revenue loss would not be eligible to receive reimbursement distributions. Because much of the reimbursement funds are deposited into the State school aid fund, the legislature may, in the future, change the funding formulas in the State School Aid Act of 1979 or appropriate funds therein for other purposes.

## **Federal**

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, based upon its examination of the documents described in its opinion, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals; however, interest on the Bonds held by an "applicable corporation" as defined in Section 59(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") is included in annual "adjusted financial statement income" for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on an applicable corporation. The opinions set forth in the preceding sentence are subject to the condition that the School District comply with all requirements of the Code, that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The School District has covenanted to comply with such requirements. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements may cause the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in gross income for federal income tax purposes to be retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. Bond Counsel will express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences with respect to the Bonds.

There are additional federal tax consequences relative to the Bonds and the interest thereon. The following is a general description of some of these consequences but is not intended to be complete or exhaustive and investors should consult with their tax advisors with respect to these matters. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be aware that (i) interest on the Bonds is included in the effectively connected earnings and profits of certain foreign corporations for purposes of calculating the branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code, (ii) interest on the Bonds may be subject to a tax on excess net passive income of certain S Corporations imposed by Section 1375 of the Code, (iii) interest on the Bonds is included in the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining the taxability of social security or railroad retirement benefits, (iv) the receipt of interest on the Bonds by life insurance companies may affect the federal tax liability of such companies, (v) in the case of property and casualty insurance companies, the amount of certain loss deductions otherwise allowed is reduced by a specific percentage of, among other things, interest on the Bonds, (vi) holders of the Bonds may not deduct interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry the Bonds, and (vii) commercial banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions may deduct their costs of carrying certain obligations such as the Bonds.

### **Original Issue Premium**<sup>1</sup>

For federal income tax purposes, the initial offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses and brokers) of certain Bonds, as set forth on the cover of this Official Statement, may be greater than the stated redemption prices at maturity (the "Premium Bonds"), and constitutes for the original purchasers of the Premium Bonds an amortizable bond premium. Such amortizable bond premium is not deductible from gross income. The amount of amortizable bond premium allocable to each taxable year is generally determined on the basis of a taxpayer's yield to maturity determined by using the taxpayer's basis (for purposes of determining loss on sale or exchange) of such Premium Bonds and compounding at the close of each six-month accrual period. The amount of amortizable bond premium allocable to each taxable year is deducted from the taxpayer's adjusted basis of such Premium Bonds to determine taxable gain upon disposition (including sale, redemption or payment on maturity) of such Premium Bonds.

### **Original Issue Discount**<sup>1</sup>

The initial public offering prices of certain Bonds, as set forth on the cover page of this Official Statement, may be less than the stated redemption prices at maturity (hereinafter referred to as the "OID Bonds"), and, to the extent properly allocable to each owner of such OID Bond, the original issue discount is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes with respect to such owner. Original issue discount is the excess of the stated redemption price at maturity of an OID Bond over the initial offering price to the public (excluding bond houses and brokers) at which price a substantial amount of the OID Bonds were sold. Under Section 1288 of the Code, original issue discount on tax-exempt bonds accrues on a compound basis. For an owner who acquires an OID Bond in this offering, the amount of original issue discount that accrues during any accrual period generally equals (i) the issue price of such OID Bond plus the amount of

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change.

original issue discount accrued in all prior accrual periods, multiplied by (ii) the yield to maturity on such OID Bond (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each accrual period and properly adjusted for the length of the accrual period), less (iii) any interest payable on such OID Bond during such accrual period. The amount of original issue discount so accrued in a particular accrual period will be considered to be received ratably on each day of the accrual period, will be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, and will increase the owner's tax basis in such OID Bond. Any gain realized by an owner from a sale, exchange, payment or redemption of an OID Bond would be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of such OID Bond. Owners of OID Bonds should consult with their individual tax advisors to determine whether the application of the original issue discount federal regulations will require them to include, for state and local income tax purposes, an amount of interest on the OID Bonds as income even though no corresponding cash interest payment is actually received during the tax year.

### **Future Developments**

No assurance can be given that any future legislation or clarifications or amendments to the Code or to Michigan statutes, if enacted into law, will not contain proposals which could cause the interest on the Bonds to be subject directly or indirectly to federal or State income taxation, adversely affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds, or otherwise prevent bondholders from realizing the full current benefit of the status of the interest thereon.

Furthermore, no assurance can be given that the impact of any future court decisions will not cause the interest on the Bonds to be subject directly or indirectly to federal or State income taxation, adversely affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds, or otherwise prevent bondholders from realizing the full current benefit of the status of the interest thereon.

It is to be understood that the rights of the holders of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

INVESTORS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACQUISITION, HOLDING OR DISPOSITION OF THE BONDS, INCLUDING THE TREATMENT OF ORIGINAL ISSUE PREMIUM OR ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT, IF ANY.

### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale by the School District of the Bonds are subject to the approving opinion of Thrun Law Firm, P.C., East Lansing, Michigan, Bond Counsel. Except to the extent necessary to issue its approving opinion as to the validity of the Bonds, Bond Counsel has made no inquiry as to any financial information, statements or materials contained in any financial documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds, and accordingly will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of any such financial information, statements or materials.

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Underwriter by its counsel, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., Detroit, Michigan.

### **APPROVAL BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY**

The School District has received a letter from the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan stating that the School District is in material compliance with the criteria of the Revised Municipal Finance Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, for a municipality to be granted qualified status. The School District may therefore issue the Bonds without further approval from the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan.

## RATINGS

S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard and Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"), will assign, as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, its municipal bond rating of "AA" to the Bonds based upon the fact that each Bond will be fully qualified for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program as of its date of delivery. See "QUALIFICATION BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN," "LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES FOR PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND BONDHOLDERS' REMEDIES" and APPENDIX A, "State Qualification," herein.

S&P will also assign, as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, its underlying municipal bond rating of "A+" to the Bonds without regard to qualification of the Bonds for participation in the Michigan School Bond Qualification and Loan Program.

No application has been made to any other ratings service for a rating on the Bonds. The School District furnished to S&P certain materials and information in addition to that provided herein. Generally, rating agencies base their ratings on such information and materials, and on investigations, studies and assumptions. There is no assurance that such ratings will prevail for any given period of time or that they will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely by S&P if, in its judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any such downward revision or withdrawal of such ratings may have an adverse affect on the market price of the Bonds. Any ratings assigned represent only the views of S&P. Further information is available upon request from S&P Global Ratings, 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041, telephone: (212) 438-1000.

## UNDERWRITING

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated (the "Underwriter" or "Stifel"), has agreed, subject to the terms of the Bond Purchase Agreement, to purchase the Bonds from the School District. The Bond Purchase Agreement provides, in part, that the Underwriter, subject to certain conditions, will purchase from the School District the aggregate principal amount of Bonds for a purchase price as set forth therein. The Underwriter has further agreed to offer the Bonds to the public at the approximate initial offering prices corresponding to the yields as set forth on the cover hereto. The Underwriter may offer and sell the Bonds to certain dealers and others at prices lower than the offering prices corresponding to the yields stated on the cover hereto. The offering prices may be changed from time to time by the Underwriter. The aggregate underwriting fee for the Bonds equals \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds.

The Bond Purchase Agreement provides that the obligations of the Underwriter are subject to certain conditions, including, among other things, that (i) no event has occurred which impairs or threatens to impair the validity of the Bonds or the status of the Bonds or the interest thereon as exempt from taxation in the State of Michigan and interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes (except as described under the heading "TAX MATTERS" herein), and (ii) proceedings relating to the Bonds are not pending or threatened by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Bond Purchase Agreement further provides that the School District will provide to the Underwriter, within seven business days of the date of the Bond Purchase Agreement, an electronic copy of the Official Statement to enable the Underwriter to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(4) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Stifel and its affiliates comprise a full-service financial institution engaged in activities which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. Stifel and its affiliates may have provided, and may in the future provide, a variety of these services to the School District and to persons and entities with relationships with the School District, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of these business activities, Stifel and its affiliates may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and actively traded securities, derivatives, loans and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to assets, securities and/or instruments of the School District (directly, as collateral securing other obligations or otherwise) and/or persons and entities with relationships with the School District.

Stifel and its affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire such assets, securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve securities and instruments of the School District.

### **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR'S OBLIGATION**

The School District has retained PFM Financial Advisors LLC, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, as municipal financial advisor (the "Municipal Advisor") in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. In preparing portions of the Official Statement, the Municipal Advisor has relied upon governmental officials and other sources which have access to relevant data, to provide accurate information for the Official Statement and the Municipal Advisor has not been engaged, nor has it undertaken, to independently verify the accuracy of such information. To the best of the Municipal Advisor's knowledge and belief, the information contained in the Official Statement, which it assisted in preparing, while it may be summarized, is complete and accurate. The Municipal Advisor is not a public accounting firm and has not been engaged by the School District to compile, review, examine or audit any information in the Official Statement in accordance with accounting standards.

The Municipal Advisor is an independent advisory firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities and therefore will not participate in the underwriting of the Bonds. PFM Financial Advisors LLC is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board as a municipal advisor.

Requests for information concerning the School District should be addressed to PFM Financial Advisors LLC, 555 Briarwood Circle, Suite 333, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, telephone: (734) 994-9700.

### **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE**

Prior to delivery of the Bonds, the School District will execute a Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the "Agreement") for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds and the Beneficial Owners (as hereinafter defined under this caption only) to send certain information annually and to provide notice of certain events to certain information repositories pursuant to the requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the "Rule") adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. "Beneficial Owner" means, under this caption only, any person, which has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of, any Bonds (including any person holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or any other intermediaries). The information to be provided on an annual basis, the events which will be noticed on an occurrence basis and the other terms of the Agreement, are set forth in "APPENDIX F: Form of Continuing Disclosure Agreement." Additionally, the School District shall provide certain annual financial information and operating data generally consistent with the information contained within the tables under the headings "ENROLLMENT - Historical Enrollment," "STATE AID PAYMENTS," "PROPERTY VALUATIONS - History of Valuations," "MAJOR TAXPAYERS," "SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)," "TAX LEVIES AND COLLECTIONS," "RETIREMENT PLAN - Contribution to MPSERS," "LABOR RELATIONS," "DEBT STATEMENT - DIRECT DEBT," and "SCHOOL LOAN REVOLVING FUND (SLRF) PROGRAM" as it relates to the School District's School Loan Revolving Fund balance, if any, in APPENDIX B and General Fund Budget Summary in APPENDIX C.

A failure by the School District to comply with the Agreement will not constitute an event of default under the Resolutions and Beneficial Owners of the Bonds are limited to the remedies described in the Agreement. A failure by the School District to comply with the Agreement must be reported by the School District in accordance with the Rule and must be considered by any broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer before recommending the purchase or sale of the Bonds in the secondary market. Consequently, such a failure may adversely affect the transferability and liquidity of the Bonds and their market price.

The School District has not, in the previous five years, failed to comply in any material respect with any previous continuing disclosure agreement or undertaking executed by the School District pursuant to the Rule.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

All information contained in this Official Statement, in all respects, is subject to the complete body of information contained in the original sources thereof. In particular, no opinion or representation is rendered as to whether any projection will approximate actual results, and all opinions, estimates and assumptions, whether or not expressly identified as such, should not be considered statements of fact.

The School District certifies that to its best knowledge and belief, this Official Statement, insofar as it pertains to the School District and its economic and financial condition, is true and correct as of the date of this Official Statement, and does not contain, nor omit, any material facts or information which would make the statements contained herein misleading.

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent of Schools

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**APPENDIX A  
STATE QUALIFICATION**

**ARTICLE IX, SECTION 16 OF THE  
1963 STATE OF MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION**

**State loans to school districts.**

Sec. 16. The state, in addition to any other borrowing power, may borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge its faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided in this section.

**Amount of loans.**

If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for the payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

**Qualified bonds.**

The term "qualified bonds" means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section.

**Repayment of loans, tax levy by school district.**

After a school district has received loans from the state, each year thereafter it shall levy for debt service, exclusive of levies for nonqualified bonds, not less than 13 mill or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, until the amount loaned has been repaid, and any tax collections therefrom in any year over and above the minimum requirements for principal and interest on qualified bonds shall be used toward the repayment of state loans. In any year when such levy would produce an amount in excess of the requirements and the amount due to the state, the levy may be reduced by the amount of the excess.

**Bonds, state loans, repayment.**

Subject to the foregoing provisions, the legislature shall have the power to prescribe and to limit the procedure, terms and conditions for the qualification of bonds, for obtaining and making state loans, and for the repayment of loans.

**Power to tax unlimited.**

The power to tax for the payment of principal and interest on bonds hereafter issued which are the general obligations of any school district, including refunding bonds, and for repayment of any state loans made to school districts, shall be without limitations as to rate or amount.

**Rights and obligations to remain unimpaired.**

All rights acquired under Sections 27 and 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908, by holders of bonds heretofore issued, and all obligations assumed by the state or any school district under these sections, shall remain unimpaired.

**SCHOOL BOND QUALIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND LOAN ACT**  
**Act 92 of 2005**

AN ACT to prescribe the procedures, terms, and conditions for the qualification or approval of school bonds and other bonds; to authorize this state to make loans to certain school districts for the payment of certain bonds and to authorize schools to borrow from this state for that purpose; to prescribe the terms and conditions of certain loans to school districts; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and certain state and local officials; to provide for certain fees; to prescribe certain penalties; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

**388.1921 Short title.**

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "school bond qualification, approval, and loan act".

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**388.1922 Purpose of act.**

Sec. 2. The purpose of this act is to implement section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 and to provide for loans to school districts.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**388.1923 Definitions.**

Sec. 3. As used in this act:

(a) "Computed millage" means the number of mills in any year, not less than 7 mills and not more than 13 mills, determined on the date of issuance of the order qualifying the bonds or on a later date if requested by the school district and approved by the state treasurer, that, if levied by the school district, will generate sufficient annual proceeds to pay principal and interest on all the school district's qualified bonds plus principal and interest on all qualified loans related to those qualified bonds no later than the final mandatory repayment date. Based on changes of circumstances, including, but not limited to, additional bond qualification, refundings, changes in qualified loan interest rates, changes in taxable values, and assumptions contained in any then currently effective guidelines issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 5(2)(c), the school district shall not less than annually, beginning on October 1, 2013, using methods prescribed in this act, recalculate the computed millage necessary to generate sufficient annual levy proceeds to pay principal and interest on all of the school district's qualified bonds and principal and interest on all qualified loans related to those qualified bonds not later than the final mandatory repayment date. If the school district determines that the recalculated computed millage is lower than its current millage levy rate, the school district shall promptly notify the state treasurer in writing of the recalculated computed millage. Immediately thereafter, the school district shall decrease its millage levy rate to the recalculated computed millage, but not below the computed millage established pursuant to the most recent order qualifying bonds for that school district, or to the minimum levy prescribed by law for receipt of qualified loans, whichever rate is higher. If the school district determines that the recalculated computed millage is higher than its current millage levy rate, the school district shall promptly notify the state treasurer in writing of the recalculated computed millage. Immediately thereafter, the school district shall increase its millage levy rate to the recalculated computed millage, subject to 1 of the following exceptions, and subject to any maximum millage levy rate otherwise prescribed for by law:

(i) For each school district's first recalculated computed millage required as of October 1, 2013, increase its millage levy by a percentage amount equal to the equivalent percentage of taxable value change for that school district over the immediately preceding 5 years, but not higher than the recalculated computed millage.

(ii) For each school district's subsequent recalculated computed millage beginning October 1, 2014 and each year thereafter, increase its millage levy by a percentage amount equal to the percentage of taxable value decline for the immediately preceding year ending September 30, but not to a rate higher than the recalculated computed millage.

(iii) If it is determined that a district's current computed millage is sufficient to pay all qualified loans by the mandatory final loan repayment date, no recalculation of the computed millage is required.

(b) "Final mandatory repayment date" means the final mandatory repayment date determined by the state treasurer under section 9.

(c) "Michigan finance authority" means the Michigan finance authority created under Executive

Reorganization Order No. 2010-2, MCL 12.194.

(d) "Qualified bond" means a bond that is qualified under this act for state loans as provided in section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. A qualified bond includes the interest amount required for payment of a school district's net interest obligation under an interest rate exchange or swap, hedge, or other agreement entered into pursuant to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821, but does not include a termination payment or similar payment related to the termination or cancellation of an interest rate exchange or swap, hedge, or other similar agreement. A qualified bond may include a bond issued to refund loans owed to the state under this act.

(e) "Qualified loan" means a loan made under this act or former 1961 PA 108 from this state to a school district to pay debt service on a qualified bond.

(f) "Revolving loan fund" means the school loan revolving fund created under section 16c of the shared credit rating act, 1985 PA 227, MCL 141.1066c.

(g) "School district" means a general powers school district organized under the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, or a school district of the first class as described in the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, having the power to levy ad valorem property taxes.

(h) "State treasurer" means the state treasurer or his or her duly authorized designee.

(i) "Taxable value" means the value determined under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27a.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1924 Qualification of new bonds; terms and conditions applicable to outstanding qualified bonds; application for prequalification.**

Sec. 4. (1) A school district may issue and market bonds as qualified bonds if the state treasurer has issued an order granting qualification under this act.

(2) Except with regard to qualification of new bonds, nothing in this act shall be construed to alter the terms and conditions applicable to outstanding qualified bonds issued in accordance with former 1961 PA 108. Unless otherwise amended as permitted by this act, outstanding qualified loans incurred in association with outstanding qualified bonds described in this subsection shall bear interest as provided in section 9(8) but otherwise shall be due and payable as provided in the repayment agreements entered into between the school district and the state before the effective date of this act.

(3) The state treasurer may qualify bonds for which the state treasurer has received an application for prequalification on or before May 25, 2005 without regard to the requirements of section 5(2)(f) if the electors of the school district approve the bonds at an election held during 2005.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1925 Preliminary qualification; application.**

Sec. 5. (1) A school district may apply to the state treasurer for preliminary qualification of a proposed school bond issue by filing an application in the form and containing the information required by this act.

(2) An application for preliminary qualification of a school bond shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The proposed ballot language to be submitted to the electors.

(b) A description of the project or projects proposed to be financed.

(c) A pro forma debt service projection showing the estimated mills the school district will levy to provide revenue the school district will use to pay the qualified bonds, any outstanding qualified bonds, and any outstanding or projected qualified loans of the school district. For the purpose of the pro forma debt service projection, the school district may assume for the first 5 years following the date of the application the average growth or decline in taxable value for the 5 years or such other period of time requested by the school district if approved by the state treasurer preceding the date of the application and the average growth or decline rate for the 20 years immediately preceding the date of the application but not more than 3% or less than 0% growth rate, for the remaining term of the proposed bonds.

(d) Evidence that the rate of utilization of each project to be financed will be at least 85% for new buildings and 60% for renovated facilities. If the projected enrollment of the district would not otherwise support utilization at the rates described in this subsection, the school district may include an explanation of the actions the school district intends to take to address the underutilization, including, if applicable, actions to close school buildings or other actions designed to assure continued assured use of the facilities being financed.

(e) Evidence that the cost per square foot of the project or projects will be reasonable in light of economic conditions applicable to the geographic area in which the school district is located.

(f) Evidence that the school district will repay all outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed qualified bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed qualified bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

(g) The overall utilization rate of all school buildings in the school district, excluding special education purposes.

(h) The total bonded debt outstanding of the school district and the total taxable value of property in the school district for the school district fiscal year in which the application is filed.

(i) A statement describing any environmental or usability problems to be addressed by the project or projects.

(j) An architect's analysis of the overall condition of the facilities to be renovated or replaced as a part of the project or projects.

(k) An amortization schedule demonstrating that the weighted average maturity of the qualified bond issue does not exceed 120% of the average reasonably expected useful life of the facilities, excluding land and site improvements, being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the qualified bonds, determined as of the later of the date on which the qualified bonds will be issued or the date on which each facility is expected to be placed in service.

(l) An agreement that the school district will keep books and records detailing the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of the qualified bonds and, at the request of the state treasurer, the school district will promptly, but not later than the date specified in the request, which date shall be not less than 5 business days after the date of the request, submit information requested by the state treasurer related to the detailed information maintained by the school district as to the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of its qualified bonds.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1926 Prequalification of bonds; determination by state treasurer.**

Sec. 6. The state treasurer shall prequalify bonds of a school district if the state treasurer determines all of the following:

(a) The issuance of additional qualified bonds will not prevent the school district from repaying its outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

(b) The form and language of the ballot conforms with the requirements of this act.

(c) The school district has filed an application complying with the requirements of section 5.

(d) If the proposed bond issue is approved by the voters after September 30, 2012 and will result in additional qualified loans, the outstanding balance of all qualified loans on the most recent May 1 or November 1 did not exceed \$1,800,000,000.00. The \$1,800,000,000.00 limitation described in the immediately preceding sentence does not apply after June 30, 2016.

(e) The issuance of additional qualified bonds approved by voters after September 30, 2012 will not have an adverse financial impact on the school district, this state, or the school loan revolving fund. In making this determination, the state treasurer shall consider relevant factors, including, but not limited to, whether the issuance of the proposed bond issue will cause the aggregate outstanding amount of qualified and nonqualified bonds, including the proposed bond issue, and currently outstanding qualified loans of the school district to exceed 25% of the taxable value of the school district at the time the proposed bonds are issued.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1927 Qualification of bonds; determination by state treasurer; order; specifications; loan agreement; reapplication; qualification of refunding bonds; requirements.**

Sec. 7. (1) The state treasurer shall qualify bonds of a school district if the state treasurer determines all of the following:

(a) A majority of the school district electors have approved the bonds.

(b) The terms of the bond issue comply with applicable provisions of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852.

(c) The school district is in compliance with the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(d) The weighted average maturity of the qualified bond issue does not exceed 120% of the average reasonably expected useful life of the facilities, excluding land and site improvements, being financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the bonds, determined as of the later of the date on which the qualified bonds

will be issued or the date on which each facility is expected to be placed in service.

(e) The school district has filed any information necessary to update the contents of the original application to reflect changes in any of the information approved in the preliminary qualification process.

(f) The school district has agreed that the school district will keep books and records detailing the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of the qualified bonds and, at the request of the state treasurer, the school district will promptly, but not later than the date specified in the request, which date shall be not less than 5 business days after the date of the request, submit information requested by the state treasurer related to the detailed information maintained by the school district as to the investment and expenditure of the proceeds of its qualified bonds.

(2) An order qualifying bonds shall specify the principal and interest payment dates for all the bonds, the maximum principal amount of and maximum interest rate on the bonds, the computed millage, if any, the final mandatory repayment date, and other matters as the state treasurer shall determine or as are required by this act.

(3) If the application for prequalification demonstrates that the school district will borrow from this state in accordance with this act, the state treasurer and the school district shall enter into a loan agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of any qualified loans to be made to the school district under this act.

(4) If a school district does not issue its qualified bonds within 180 days after the date of the order qualifying bonds, the order shall no longer be effective. However, the school district may reapply for qualification by filing an application and information necessary to update the contents of the original application for prequalification or qualification.

(5) The state treasurer shall qualify refunding bonds issued to refund qualified loans or qualified bonds if the state treasurer finds that all of the following are met:

(a) The refunding bonds comply with the provisions of the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(b) That the school district will repay all outstanding qualified bonds, the proposed qualified bonds, all outstanding qualified loans, and all qualified loans expected to be incurred with respect to all qualified bonds of the school district, including the proposed qualified bond issue, not later than the applicable final mandatory repayment date.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1928 Submission of ballot to electors; ballot.**

Sec. 8. A ballot submitted to the school electors of a school district after November 8, 2005 requesting authorization to issue unlimited tax general obligations that will be guaranteed by this state in accordance with section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963 shall inform the electors that if the school district expects to borrow from this state to pay debt service on the bonds, the estimated total amount of the principal of that borrowing and the interest to be paid on that borrowing, the estimated duration of the millage levy, and the estimated computed millage rate for that levy. The ballot shall also inform the electors of the total amount of qualified bond and loan debt currently outstanding and that the estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1929 Amount of borrowing; limitation; payment date for outstanding qualified loans; order; maintenance of separate accounts for each school district; duration of millage levy; amended and restated repayment agreements; waiver of portion of millage levy; findings; interest; final or later mandatory repayment date.**

Sec. 9. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, a school district may borrow from the state an amount not greater than the difference between the proceeds of the school district's computed millage and the amount necessary to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies.

(2) For school districts having qualified loans outstanding as of July 20, 2005, the state treasurer shall review information relating to each school district regarding the taxable value of the school district and the actual debt service of outstanding qualified bonds as of July 20, 2005 and shall issue an order establishing the payment date for all those outstanding qualified loans and any additional qualified loans expected to be incurred by those school districts related to qualified bonds issued before July 20, 2005. The payment date shall be not later than 72 months after the date on which the qualified bonds most recently issued by the school district are due and payable. The payment date established pursuant to this subsection for a school district is a final mandatory repayment date.

(3) For qualified loans related to qualified bonds issued after July 20, 2005, the qualified loans shall be due

72 months after the date on which the qualified bonds for which the school borrowed from this state are due and payable. The due date determined pursuant to this subsection for a school district is a final mandatory repayment date. This section does not preclude early repayment of qualified bonds or qualified loans.

(4) The state treasurer shall maintain separate accounts for each school district on the books and accounts of this state noting the qualified bond, the related qualified loans, the final payment date of the bonds, the final mandatory repayment date of the qualified loans, and the interest rate accrued on the loans.

(5) For qualified loans relating to qualified bonds issued after July 20, 2005, a school district shall continue to levy the computed millage until it has completely repaid all principal and interest on its qualified loans.

(6) For qualified loans relating to qualified bonds issued before July 20, 2005, a school district shall continue to comply with the levy and repayment requirements imposed before July 20, 2005. Not less than 90 days after July 20, 2005, the state treasurer and the school district shall enter into amended and restated repayment agreements to incorporate the levy and repayment requirements applicable to qualified loans issued before July 20, 2005.

(7) Upon the request of a school district made before June 1 of any year, the state treasurer annually may waive all or a portion of the millage required to be levied by a school district to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds or qualified loans under this section if the state treasurer finds all of the following:

(a) The school board of the school district has applied to the state treasurer for permission to levy less than the millage required to be levied to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds or qualified loans under subsection (1).

(b) The application specifies the number of mills the school district requests permission to levy.

(c) The waiver will be financially beneficial to this state, the school district, or both.

(d) The waiver will not reduce the millage levied by the school district to pay principal and interest on qualified bonds or qualified loans under this act to less than 7 mills.

(e) The board of the school district, by resolution, has agreed to comply with all conditions that the state treasurer considers necessary.

(8) All qualified loans shall bear interest at 1 of the following rates:

(a) The greater of 3% or the average annual cost of funds used to make qualified loans plus 0.125%, but not less than the cost of funds on outstanding qualified notes and bonds issued by the Michigan finance authority to finance loans computed by the state treasurer not less often than annually.

(b) A lesser rate determined by the state treasurer to be necessary to maintain the exemption from federal income tax of interest on any bonds or notes issued to fund qualified loans.

(c) A higher rate determined by the state treasurer to be necessary to prevent the impairment of any contract of this state or the Michigan finance authority in existence on the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subdivision.

(9) A payment date determined under subsection (2) or a due date determined under subsection (3) is a final mandatory repayment date. Once established for a school district as provided in this section, a final mandatory repayment date shall apply to all qualified loans of the school district, whenever made, until 30 days after the date the school district has no outstanding qualified loans and no outstanding debt incurred to refund qualified loans. Notwithstanding this subsection, the state treasurer may determine a later mandatory repayment date for a school district that agrees to levy a higher millage, acceptable to the state treasurer, not to exceed 13 mills, than its existing computed millage.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2006, Act 71, Imd. Eff. Mar. 20, 2006;—Am. 2009, Act 50, Imd. Eff. June 18, 2009;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1930 Certificates of qualification or approval; file; delivery.**

Sec. 10. The state treasurer shall keep all certificates of qualification or approval in a permanent file and shall deliver copies of the certificates to the school district.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1931 Rules; bulletins.**

Sec. 11. The state treasurer may promulgate rules to implement this act pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, and may issue bulletins as authorized by this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1932 Failure to apply for prequalification, qualification, or approval of bond before issuance.**

Sec. 12. If a school district does not apply for prequalification or qualification or approval of a bond issue

before the issuance of those bonds, the state treasurer shall not approve or qualify those bonds as qualified bonds under this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**388.1933 School district owing revolving loan fund; filing annual loan activity application required; borrowing for debt service on qualified bonds; draw request; duties of state treasurer upon receipt of qualified loan confirmation; notification of no need to borrow by school district; invoice for repayment amount; remittance.**

Sec. 13. (1) If a school district owes a balance due to the revolving loan fund or has been identified as a potential borrower, the school district shall file an annual loan activity application with the state treasurer not less than 60 days before certifying its annual tax levy. The annual loan activity application shall be submitted in a format prescribed by the state treasurer and shall provide the taxable value, debt service, and any other information necessary to determine the proper required millage levy required under this act. The application shall contain a resolution passed by the local school board authorizing a designated school district official to complete all necessary documents to obtain a loan from the revolving loan fund or for making repayment to the revolving loan fund for the year.

(2) If a school district is eligible to borrow for debt service on qualified bonds, the school district shall file a draw request with the state treasurer not less than 30 days before each date on which the school district owes the debt service. The draw request shall include all of the following:

(a) A statement of the debt service owed in the next 6 months.

(b) A copy of the most recent bank statement showing the amount on hand in the debt service accounts for all qualified bonds.

(c) A statement of any revenue received for payment of the debt service since the date of the bank statement.

(d) A statement of any withdrawals made from the debt service account since the date of the bank statement.

(3) Not more than 7 days before the date established by the state treasurer for making qualified loans, the school district shall confirm in writing the final qualified loan amount to be drawn on a certificate in the form prescribed by the state treasurer.

(4) Upon receipt of a qualified loan confirmation described in subsection (3), the state treasurer shall determine the amount of the draw, which shall be the difference between the funds on hand in all debt service accounts and the amount of the debt service, and shall make a qualified loan in that amount to the school district no later than 6 days before the date the debt service is due.

(5) When a school district's current computed millage levy is sufficient to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, a school district shall notify the state treasurer in writing of no need to borrow no later than 30 days before the date set for payment of the qualified bonds.

(6) Within 30 days after receipt of the annual activity application under subsection (1), the state treasurer shall send an invoice to the school district for the amount of repayment the school district owes on its outstanding qualified loans, which shall be the difference between the debt service payable or paid to bondholders and the funds on hand at the school district, less a reasonable amount of funds on hand, as determined by the state treasurer, to cover minimum balance requirements or potential tax disputes. The school district shall remit the amount specified in the invoice within 30 days after the dated date of the invoice.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

**388.1934 Failure of school district to pay principal and interest due on qualified bonds; notice; payment by state treasurer; billing of school district for amount paid; remittance.**

Sec. 14. (1) If any paying agent for a school district's qualified bonds notifies the state treasurer that the school district has failed to deposit sufficient funds to pay principal and interest due on the qualified bonds when due, or if a bondholder notifies the state treasurer that the school district has failed to pay principal or interest on qualified bonds when due, whether or not the school district has filed a draw request with the state treasurer, the state treasurer shall promptly pay the principal or interest on the qualified bond when due.

(2) If the state treasurer pays any amount described in this section, the state treasurer shall bill the school district for the amount paid and the school district shall immediately remit the amount to the state treasurer. If the school district would have been eligible to borrow the debt service in accordance with the terms of this act, the school district shall enter into a loan agreement establishing the terms of the qualified loan as provided in this act. If the state treasurer directs the Michigan municipal bond authority to pay any amount described in this section, the state treasurer shall cause the Michigan municipal bond authority to bill the

school district for the amount paid and the school district shall immediately remit the amount to the Michigan municipal bond authority.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1935 Default; repayment.**

Sec. 15. (1) If a school district that owes this state loan repayments relating to qualified bonds fails to levy at least the computed millage upon its taxable value for debt retirement purposes for qualified bonds and for repayment of a qualified loan made under this act while any part of the qualified loan is unpaid or defaults in its agreement to repay a qualified loan or any installment of a qualified loan, the school district shall increase its debt levy in the next succeeding year to obtain the amount necessary to repay this state the amount of the default plus a late charge of 3% and shall pay that amount to this state together with any other amounts owed during the next tax year. The school district may use other funds to repay this state including a transfer of general funds of the school district, if approved by the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall not disburse state school aid to the school district until the school district has made satisfactory arrangements with the state treasurer for the payment of the amount in default.

(2) If a school district fails to process any report, application, confirmation, or repayment as required under this act, the state treasurer may withhold a school district's state aid funds until the school district complies with the requirements under this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1936 Charging and disposition of fees.**

Sec. 16. (1) The state treasurer may charge a prequalification application fee, a qualification application fee, and an annual loan activity fee in the amounts determined by the state treasurer to be required to pay the estimated administrative expenses incurred under this act for the fiscal year in which the state treasurer imposes the fee.

(2) The state treasurer shall deposit all fees collected under this act into a separate fund established within the state treasury, and shall use the proceeds of the fees solely for the purpose of administering and enforcing this act. The unexpended and unobligated balance of this fund at the end of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward over to the succeeding state fiscal year and shall not lapse to the general fund but shall be available for reappropriation for the next state fiscal year.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1937 False statement or unauthorized use of proceeds; violation as felony; penalty.**

Sec. 17. A person who knowingly makes a false statement or conceals material information for the purpose of obtaining qualification of a bond issue under this act or for the purpose of obtaining a qualified loan under this act, or who knowingly uses all or part of the proceeds of a qualified loan obtained under this act for any purpose not authorized by this act, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 4 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

### **388.1938 Use of remaining proceeds.**

Sec. 18. If a school district has completed the projects approved by the school electors of the school district to be funded from proceeds of qualified bonds, a school district may use any remaining proceeds of the qualified bonds as follows:

(a) To pay debt service on the qualified bonds.

(b) To repay this state.

(c) If in the opinion of the school district's bond counsel use of the remaining proceeds for the purposes described in subdivisions (a) and (b) would adversely affect the federal tax treatment of interest on the qualified bonds, to pay for enhancements to the projects approved by the school electors as described in the ballot language proposing the qualified bonds.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005;—Am. 2012, Act 437, Eff. Mar. 28, 2013.

### **388.1939 Actions by designee.**

Sec. 19. The state treasurer may designate in writing a person or persons to take any actions required to be taken by the state treasurer under this act. The signature of any designee shall have the same force and effect as the signature of the state treasurer for all purposes of this act.

**History:** 2005, Act 92, Imd. Eff. July 20, 2005.

**OPINION #4422 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DATED MARCH 12, 1965**

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW:  
SCHOOL BONDS:  
MUNICIPAL FINANCE COMMISSION:

Article 9, § 16, Michigan Constitution of 1963, requires school districts to borrow and State to lend sufficient sum to cover debt service payments on qualified bonds of school districts. Although this is not a pledge of full faith and credit of the State, the Municipal Finance Commission may and must enforce the duty of the district to borrow and the State to lend such sum.

No. 4422

March 12, 1965.

Hon. Sanford A. Brown  
State Treasurer  
Lansing, Michigan

You have asked in your letter of February 5 whether Article IX, § 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 pledges the full faith and credit of the State to the payment of principal and interest of qualified school bonds.

Article IX, § 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 provides in pertinent part as follows:

"The state \* \* \* may borrow from time to time such amounts as shall be required, pledge its faith and credit and issue its notes or bonds therefor, for the purpose of making loans to school districts as provided in this section.

"If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

"The term 'qualified bonds' means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section."

Thus, the school district is required to borrow and the State to lend an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make payments of principal and interest due on qualified bonds, and the state is empowered to borrow and to issue its notes or bonds for the purpose of making such loans, and to pledge its full faith and credit for such state bonds or notes.

The constitutional provision quoted does not pledge the full faith and credit of the state to all qualified bonds. The state is not primarily liable on qualified bonds of a school district. Rather, the state is required to lend whatever the school district needs, from time to time, to meet debt service requirements on such bonds.

You ask what remedies are available to enforce the obligation of the state.

The quoted language makes it mandatory upon the school district to borrow and upon the state to lend "an amount necessary to enable the school district to make the payment." Under Chapter II, Section 2(f) of the Municipal Finance Act [C.L. 1948 § 132.2; M.S.A. 1958 Rev. Vol. § 5.3188(4)f], the Municipal Finance Commission has power to enforce compliance with any law by, inter alia, the "institution of appropriate proceedings in the courts of the state, including those for writs of mandamus and injunction."

The Commission could and indeed must enforce the duty of the district to borrow and the state to lend. The bondholders also would have an action to enforce the duty of the district to borrow and of the state to lend.

Thus the bondholders are assured of the availability of state funds where needed to meet debt service requirements on qualified bonds. This is not a pledge of full faith and credit, but gives the bondholders as much or more protection as would such a pledge.

FRANK J. KELLEY,  
Attorney General

**OPINION #4508 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DATED AUGUST 29, 1966**

BONDS: Qualified bonds of school districts.

CONSTITUTION OF 1963: School Bond Loan Fund.

SCHOOLS: Bond Loans.

STATE TREASURER: Payment of principal and interest on qualified school district bonds.

Authority of State Treasurer and procedures to be followed in paying from the School Bond Loan Fund principal and interest on qualified school bonds upon presentment by a bondholder.

No. 4508      Hon. Allison Green  
                    State Treasurer  
                    Capitol Building  
                    Lansing, Michigan

August 29, 1966.

You have requested my opinion on what procedures should be followed by the state treasurer preparatory to making loans to local school districts which are unable to make payments on principal and interest of qualified school district bonds.<sup>1</sup>

Loans to bonded school districts are authorized by Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, which in part contains pertinent language:

"If the minimum amount which would otherwise be necessary for a school district to levy in any year to pay principal and interest on its qualified bonds, including any necessary allowances for estimated tax delinquencies, exceeds 13 mills on each dollar of its assessed valuation as finally equalized, or such lower millage as the legislature may prescribe, then the school district may elect to borrow all or any part of the excess from the state. In that event the state shall lend the excess amount to the school district for the payment of principal and interest. If for any reason any school district will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on its qualified bonds when due, then the school district shall borrow and the state shall lend to it an amount sufficient to enable the school district to make the payment.

"The term 'qualified bonds' means general obligation bonds of school districts issued for capital expenditures, including refunding bonds, issued prior to May 4, 1955, or issued thereafter and qualified as provided by law pursuant to Section 27 or Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908 or pursuant to this section."

Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, is a continuation with minor revisions of the provisions relating to school bond financing which appeared in Sections 27 and 28 of Article X, Constitution of 1908. Section 27, Article X, Constitution of 1908, was proposed by joint resolution of the legislature in 1955 and approved by the people at the regular election of April 4, 1955. The loan provisions of Section 27 ceased to have effectiveness after July 1, 1962, and were replaced by the provisions of Section 28, Article X, Constitution of 1908, which was proposed by joint resolution of the legislature in 1960 and approved by the people at the general election of November 8, 1960. Section 28 by its own terms took effect on July 1, 1962.

Section 28, Article X, Constitution of 1908, was implemented by the legislature by the enactment of Act 108, P.A. 1961, which took effect September 8, 1961. The first section of Act 108, P.A. 1961, stated that the purpose of the act was to implement Section 28 of Article X of the Constitution of 1908. The Constitution of 1963 took effect on January 1, 1964. In anticipation of the effectiveness of that Constitution, the legislature passed Act 33, P.A. 1963, Second Extra Session, such act to take effect on January 1, 1964. Act 33, P.A. 1963, Second Extra Session, amended Sections 1, 3, 8 and 9 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, and further amended section 7 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, as amended by Act 131, P.A. 1962. The first section of amendatory Act 33 stated that the act's purpose was to implement Section 16 of Article IX of the Constitution of 1963. Subsequent amendment has been made to Sections 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10 of Act 108, P.A. 1961, by Act 169, P.A. 1964, which act also added a new Section 4a.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>In your letter of request you stated that you were familiar with Opinion No. 4422 issued by me on March 12, 1965, in which it was ruled that Article IX, Section 16, Constitution of 1963, requires school districts to borrow and the state to lend sufficient sums to cover debt service payments on qualified bonds of school districts but that this requirement is not a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state; the Municipal Finance Commission however may and must enforce the duty of the school district to borrow and have the state to lend the necessary amounts.

<sup>2</sup>Act 108, P.A. 1961, in its present amended form appears in M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. § 3.424(111) et seq.

Answer to your question is to be found in amended Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the act. These sections present two situations in which you may become involved as state treasurer. The first situation is where a loan is to be made to the school district to permit the district to meet the principal and interest requirements on its bonds without a default in payment; the second is where the principal or interest on the bonds has not been paid when due upon proper presentation because of inadequate funds resulting in a default in payment.

Under amended Section 6 of the act, in any school district where the amount necessary to be levied in any year for principal and interest on qualified bonds exceeds 7 mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of the school district as last equalized by the state, such school district on or before 60 days prior to the time of certification of its tax levy to the assessing officer shall file with the superintendent of public instruction<sup>3</sup> a preliminary application for a loan from the state in the amount of any part of such excess over 7 mills which the school district does not propose to levy in such year.<sup>4</sup> Amended Section 6 specifies the information to be supplied in the application. The superintendent of public instruction if he finds the application in proper form shall approve or deny the application in whole or in part and notify the school district of his action. Amended Section 7 of the act provides that if a loan from the state shall become necessary for the payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds in accordance with an approved preliminary application to the superintendent of public instruction or by virtue of a supplemental application, it shall be the duty of the superintendent of public instruction after audit to forward to the state treasurer a statement setting forth the amount to be loaned to the school district for the payment of principal and interest and the date on or before which loan shall be made.<sup>5</sup> The superintendent shall prepare a voucher as a basis for the issuance of a warrant and upon receipt of such statement and warrant, it shall be the duty of the state treasurer to loan to the school district from the school bond loan fund the amount set forth in the statement of the superintendent of public instruction on or before the date specified therein. The state treasurer upon making such loan shall obtain from the school district a receipt for the amount so loaned which receipt shall specify the terms of repayment in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of Article IX, Constitution of 1963 and the act. The school district treasurer upon receipt of the loan is required to deposit the same in the debt retirement fund to be used solely for the payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds.

The foregoing summaries of the procedures prescribed by amended Section 6 and 7 relate to the first situation above-described where the loan to the school district is to be made before the school district has defaulted in the payment of the principal or interest on its bonds.

The second situation described above is covered by amended Section 8 of the act which prescribes that in the event the principal or interest on any qualified bond is not paid when due, upon proper presentation of the bond or interest coupon to the agent or officer charged with making payment thereof, the state treasurer shall forthwith pay such principal or interest upon presentation of the bond or coupon to him. Any amount so paid by the state treasurer shall be deemed a loan to the school district made pursuant to the requirements of Section 16, Article IX, Constitution of 1963, and the act and the school district shall give a receipt therefor and repay the loan in the manner provided in the act for the repayment of loans.

The method of processing loans to school districts under amended Sections 6 and 7 before default in payment of principal or interest is adequately spelled out in those sections and no additional comment from me is necessary. Your real concern is in regard to the applicable procedures which you should follow in the situation where the school district has defaulted in the payment of principal or interest on its bonds and the bond or bonds and the interest coupons have not been paid when due by the paying agent because of lack of funds. In the event of such a happening it is assumed for the purposes of this opinion that the holder of the bond or of the interest coupon will make demand on you as state treasurer for the prompt payment of the obligation thereunder. Should such demand be made on you as state treasurer, you would be entitled to take the following action before making payment:

- a. Ascertaining from the superintendent of public instruction or from the records in your own office that the bonds involved are duly qualified bonds as defined and described in amended Section 3 of the act;
- b. Requiring proof reasonably satisfactory to you that the bond or bonds or the interest coupons have been properly presented for payment to the paying agent or officer charged with the responsibility for making payment thereof and that payment has been refused because sufficient monies had not been deposited by the school district for that purpose; such proof of nonpayment may be furnished you in the form of a certificate from the paying agent.

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<sup>3</sup>Article VIII, Section 3, Constitution of 1963 requires the state board of education to appoint a superintendent of public instruction who shall be the principal executive officer of the department of education and who shall have powers and duties provided by law. Section 14 of Act 287, P.A. 1964 (M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. § 15.1023(14)) specifies that after June 30, 1965, a reference in any law to the powers and duties of the superintendent of public instruction shall be deemed to be made to the state board of education, subject to exceptions not pertinent here, and that the state board of education may delegate any of its functions to the superintendent. Section 300 of Act 380, P.A. 1965, creates a department of education. Section 301 of that act provides that the head of the department of education is the state board of education. Section 303 of that act transfers by a Type III transfer all powers, duties and functions then vested by law in the superintendent of public instruction to the department of education. Section 305 of the act specifies that the principal executive officer of the department of education is the superintendent of public instruction. Act 380 appears in M.S.A. 1965 Cum. Supp. at § 3.29(1) et seq. Act 380, P.A. 1965, was amended without regard to the sections involved here by Act 407, P.A. 1965. Without doubt, under the foregoing provisions the state board of education could delegate to the superintendent of public instruction the performance of all of the functions and duties imposed on the board in connection with the School Bond Loan Fund.

<sup>4</sup>Other details set forth in amended Section 6 have been omitted.

<sup>5</sup>Other details set forth in amended Section 7 have been omitted.

c. Notification to the school district given by you or your designee of the action taken by paying agent in refusing payment of the bonds or interest coupons on presentment because of the failure of the school district to have deposited funds with the paying agent for that purpose and verification from the school district of the fact of such failure to supply the required funds; notification to the school district by you or your designee that payment of the required amounts were to be made from the school bond loan fund by you as state treasurer and that such payment would be in the form of a loan to the school district which the school district would be required to be repay to the school bond loan fund in the manner required by law; the school district will be required to furnish you as state treasurer with a receipt evidencing the loan and specifying the terms of repayment, as required by law.

Upon the fulfillment of the above conditions in a manner reasonably acceptable to you, you would be authorized to make payment of the amounts due on the bonds and interest coupons and thereupon to demand their surrender and delivery to you as state treasurer.

Because of the safeguards built into the Michigan Constitution and statutes there should be no default of Michigan qualified school bonds. The School Loan Fund Program will have afforded the school district access to loan funds prior to the due date of the principle [sic] and interest on such bonds. In order to advise of the procedures in the remote possibility of nonpayment, however, I have set forth the foregoing guide lines [sic].

FRANK J. KELLEY,  
Attorney General

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# APPENDIX B<sup>1</sup>

## SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

### GENERAL FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SCHOOL INFORMATION

#### LOCATION AND AREA

Sparta Area Schools (the "School District") occupies an area of 74 square miles in the west central portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, encompassing all of the Village of Sparta and portions of the Townships of Algoma, Alpine, Sparta and Tyrone in Kent County and portions of the Townships of Chester and Wright in Ottawa County.

The School District is located the following distances from these commercial and industrial areas:

- 10 miles north of Grand Rapids
- 90 miles west of Lansing
- 165 miles northwest of Detroit
- 195 miles northeast of Chicago, IL

#### POPULATION

The U.S. Census reported and 2024 estimated populations for the School District, the Township of Sparta and the County of Kent are as follows:

	<u>School District</u>	<u>Township of Sparta</u>	<u>County of Kent</u>
2024 Estimate	13,769	9,494	663,150
2020 U.S. Census	14,706	9,395	657,974
2010 U.S. Census	14,313	9,110	602,622

Source: U.S. Census Bureau via [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) website

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education (the "Board") consists of seven members who are elected at large and serve overlapping terms. The Board annually elects a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Board is responsible for the selection and appointment of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board meets as a single body to set or amend policy, develop long-range educational goals and act upon recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board is also responsible for adopting and periodically amending the operating budget and evaluating school programs in accordance with governing laws.

#### ENROLLMENT

##### Historical Enrollment

Historical fall enrollment for the School District is as follows:

<u>School Year End 30-Jun</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>School Year End 30-Jun</u>	<u>Full-time Equivalent</u>	<u>Change</u>
2026*	2,325	-1.85%	2021	2,457	-0.39%
2025	2,369	-1.57	2020	2,467	-0.80
2024	2,407	-0.79	2019	2,487	-0.92
2023	2,426	0.01	2018	2,510	-1.88
2022	2,426	-1.30	2017	2,558	--

\*Unaudited.

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<sup>1</sup>Information included in APPENDIX B of this Official Statement was obtained from the School District unless otherwise noted.

2025/2026 Fall Count\*

Kindergarten	203	7 <sup>th</sup>	157
1 <sup>st</sup>	162	8 <sup>th</sup>	183
2 <sup>nd</sup>	188	9 <sup>th</sup>	174
3 <sup>rd</sup>	178	10 <sup>th</sup>	159
4 <sup>th</sup>	163	11 <sup>th</sup>	176
5 <sup>th</sup>	196	12 <sup>th</sup>	198
6 <sup>th</sup>	166	Subtotal	<u>2,303</u>
		ECSE	<u>22</u>
		Total	<u><u>2,325</u></u>

\*Unaudited.

Source: School District and Michigan Department of Education via website [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

**SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES**

The following is a table showing the existing School District facilities.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Grades Served</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Last Remodel/Addition</u>	<u>Type of Construction</u>
<i>Elementary Schools:</i>				
Appleview Elementary	3-5	1968	2017	Masonry
Ridgeview Elementary	K-2	1990	2017	Masonry
Sparta Early Childhood Center	PK	1959	2020	Masonry
<i>Middle School:</i>				
Sparta Middle School	6-8	2020	---	Masonry
<i>High School:</i>				
Sparta High School	9-12	2007	---	Masonry
<i>Additional Facilities:</i>				
Sparta Stadium	---	2019	2022	N/A

**OTHER SCHOOLS**

The following parochial school is located within the School District’s boundaries:

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Grades Served</u>	<u>Approximate Enrollment</u>
Trinity Lutheran School	PK-5	39

Source: 2026 Michigan Education Directory

**STATE AID PAYMENTS**

The School District's primary source of funding for operating costs is the State School Aid per pupil foundation allowance. Public Act 15 of 2025 set the target foundation allowance at \$10,050 for fiscal year 2025/2026.

In future years, this allowance may be adjusted by an index based upon the change in revenues to the state school aid fund and the change in the total number of pupils statewide. The State may reduce State School Aid appropriations at any time if the State's revenues do not meet budget expectations. See "SOURCES OF SCHOOL OPERATING REVENUE" herein for additional information.

The following table shows a five-year history and a current year estimate of the School District’s total state aid revenues, including categoricals and other amounts, and the per pupil state aid foundation allowance which reflects the changes in sources of school operating revenue described herein:

Fiscal Year End 30-Jun	Foundation Allowance per Pupil	Total State Aid Payments <sup>1</sup>	Blended Pupil Count	Amount Received per Pupil <sup>2</sup>
2026	\$10,050	\$28,183,828 <sup>3</sup>	2,326.79 <sup>3</sup>	\$12,113 <sup>3</sup>
2025	9,608	28,991,936	2,370.79	12,229
2024	9,608	30,035,502	2,406.71	12,480
2023	9,150	28,211,007	2,425.23	11,632
2022	8,700	23,558,705	2,424.48	9,717
2021	8,111	21,762,151 <sup>4</sup>	2,460.84	8,843 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Includes payments received for MPSERS UAAL rate stabilization. See “RETIREMENT PLAN - Contribution to MPSERS” herein.

<sup>2</sup>Represents the “Total State Aid Payments” divided by the “Blended Pupil Count”.

<sup>3</sup>Preliminary estimate, subject to change.

<sup>4</sup>Public Act 165 of 2020 restored the State school aid reductions contained in Public Act 146 of 2020 for the 2020/21 fiscal year, added a onetime \$65 per pupil payment and added other appropriations for qualifying school districts.

Source: Michigan Department of Education via website [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## PROPERTY VALUATIONS

In accordance with Act No. 539, Public Acts of Michigan, 1982, and Article IX, Section 3 of the Michigan Constitution, the ad valorem State Equalized Valuation (SEV) represents 50% of true cash value. SEV does not include any value of tax exempt property (e.g. churches, governmental property) or property granted tax abatements under Act No. 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, as amended. **Since 1994, ad valorem property taxes are assessed on the basis of Taxable Value, which is subject to assessment caps. SEV is used in the calculation of debt margin and true cash value.** See “TAX PROCEDURES” herein for further information.

Taxable property in the School District is assessed by the local municipal assessor, and is subject to review by the County Equalization Departments.

### History of Valuations

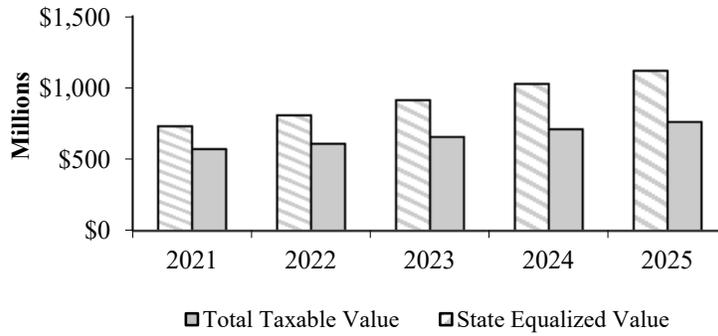
A history of the property valuations in the School District is shown below:

Year	Principal Residence <sup>1</sup>	Non- Principal Residence <sup>1</sup>	Total Taxable Value	Percent Change	State Equalized Value	Percent Change
2025	\$589,244,589	\$171,870,427	\$761,115,016	7.18%	\$1,118,924,555	8.88%
2024	549,560,470	160,588,175	710,148,645	8.23	1,027,669,300	12.50
2023	505,229,621	150,917,067	656,146,688	7.73	913,446,700	13.11
2022	473,070,839	135,977,064	609,047,903	6.65	807,570,300	10.41
2021	440,010,806	131,064,571	571,075,377	----	731,427,500	----

<sup>1</sup>All industrial personal property is included in the principal residence tax base. While commercial personal property continues to be included in the non-principal residence tax base, it is exempt from 12 of the 18 operating mills levied on non-principal residence property only. In 2025, industrial personal property had a taxable value of \$2,162,800 and commercial personal property had a taxable value of \$9,909,000 in the School District.

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments

## History of Valuations



## Annual Equivalent Valuation

A summary of the 2025 valuation is as follows:

2025 Taxable Value	\$761,115,016
Plus: 2025 Equivalent IFT Taxable Value <sup>1</sup>	5,920,047
<b>Total 2025 Equivalent Taxable Value</b>	<u>\$767,035,063</u>
Less: 2025 Disabled Veterans Exemption Taxable Value <sup>2</sup>	(5,230,269)
<b>Net 2025 Annual Equivalent Valuation</b>	<u><u>\$761,804,794</u></u>

<sup>1</sup>See "INDUSTRIAL FACILITY TAX ABATEMENTS" herein.

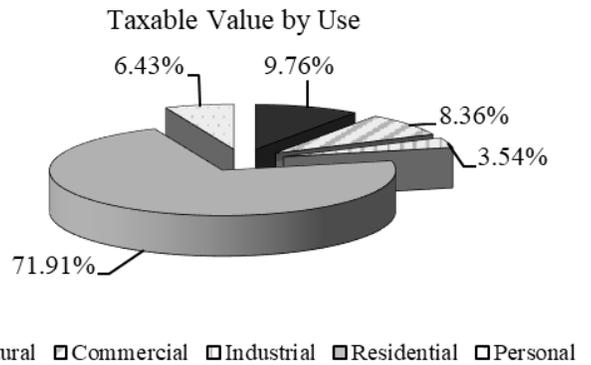
<sup>2</sup>Represents value which is exempt from taxes pursuant to Michigan's General Property Tax Act Section 7b, MCL 211.7b, which states real property used and owned as a homestead by either (1) a disabled veteran who was discharged from the United States armed forces under honorable conditions or (2) the disabled veteran's un-remarried, surviving spouse is exempt from property taxes, subject to certain application requirements.

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments

## Tax Base Composition

A breakdown of the School District's 2025 Taxable Value by class and use is as follows:

	2025	Percent
By Class:	Taxable Value	of Total
Real Property	\$712,154,707	93.57%
Personal Property	48,960,309	6.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>\$761,115,016</u></u>	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>
By Use:		
Agricultural	\$74,312,015	9.76%
Commercial	63,605,359	8.36
Industrial	26,882,041	3.54
Residential	547,355,292	71.91
Personal	48,960,309	6.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>\$761,115,016</u></u>	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>



A breakdown of the School District's 2025 Taxable Value by municipality is as follows:

Municipality	2025 Taxable Value	Percent of Total
<i>County of Kent</i>		
Algoma Township	\$203,027,269	26.67%
Alpine Township	95,807,758	12.59
Sparta Township	402,703,372	52.91
Tyrone Township	1,733,108	0.24
<i>County of Ottawa</i>		
Chester Township	52,782,441	6.93
Wright Township	5,061,068	0.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$761,115,016</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments

## INDUSTRIAL FACILITY TAX ABATEMENTS

Under the provisions of Act 198 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1974 ("Act 198"), plant rehabilitation districts and/or industrial development districts may be established. Businesses in these districts are offered certain property tax incentives to encourage restoration or replacement of obsolete facilities and to attract new facilities to the area. An industrial facilities tax ("IFT") is paid, at a lesser effective rate and in lieu of ad valorem property taxes, on such facilities for a period of up to 12 years. Qualifying facilities are issued abatement certificates for specific periods.

After expiration of the abatement certificate, the then-current SEV of the facility is returned to the ad valorem tax roll. The owner of such facility may obtain a new certificate, provided it has complied with the provisions of Act 198.

The 2025 Taxable Value for the properties which have been granted IFT abatements within the School District's boundaries is \$4,693,011 for new facility IFT's, all of which is taxed at half rate and \$1,227,036 for rehab IFT's which remains frozen. For purposes of computing "Equivalent" Taxable Value, new facility IFT's have been shown at 50% of the Taxable Value and rehab IFT's have been shown at 100% of the Taxable Value, for a total "Equivalent" taxable value of \$5,920,047.

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments

## MAJOR TAXPAYERS

Shown below are the ten largest taxpayers in the School District based on their 2025 total valuation subject to taxation.

Taxpayer	Product/Service	2025 Taxable Value	"Equivalent" IFT Value <sup>1</sup>	2025 Total Valuation
Consumers Energy	Utility	\$20,275,563	\$0	\$20,275,563
DTE	Utility	8,067,551	0	8,067,551
METC	Utility	7,743,600	0	7,743,600
Elite Apple Land Company LLC	Apple Farm	3,025,796	1,776,424	4,802,220
Glenwood Estates Sparta LLC	Mobile Home Park	4,539,601	0	4,539,601
Tesa Plant Sparta LLC	Adhesive/Tape Manufacturer	2,418,940	1,762,580 <sup>2</sup>	4,181,520
Celia Corporation (d.b.a. General Formulations)	Adhesive Vinyl Film Manufacturer	3,646,500	0	3,646,500
Apple-Tree Sparta LLC	Apartments	3,012,303	0	3,012,303
CC Holdings LLC	Food & Beverage Operations	2,515,200	0	2,515,200
Jack Brown Produce	Apple Packer, Shipper & Exporter	2,419,849	14,247	2,434,096
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$57,664,903</b>	<b>\$3,553,250</b>	<b>\$61,218,153</b>
Total 2025 Values		\$761,115,016		\$767,035,063
Top 10 Taxpayers as a % of 2025 Total Values		7.58%		7.98%

<sup>1</sup>Represents 50% of the actual Taxable Value.

<sup>2</sup>Includes a rehab IFT amount of \$1,227,036 which is shown at 100% of the actual Taxable Value.

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments

**SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)**

The following table shows the total School District tax rates for the past five years.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Operating – Voted	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000
Debt	7.0000	7.0000	7.0000	7.0000	7.0000
Sinking Fund	1.1500	1.1500	1.1500	1.1500	1.1500
Total Non-Principal Residence	26.1500	26.1500	26.1500	26.1500	26.1500
Total Principal Residence	8.1500	8.1500	8.1500	8.1500	8.1500

The School District levies voted operating millage on non-principal residence property and sinking fund millage and authorized debt millage on all taxable property within the School District. The voted operating millage expires with the 2035 levy. The sinking fund millage expires with the 2029 levy.

**OTHER JURISDICTIONS’ TAX RATES - (Per \$1,000 of Valuation)**

The following table provides the 2025 and 2024 tax rates for select units of government that overlap with the School District’s boundaries.

	2025	2024
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000
Kent County	6.0037	6.0494
Ottawa County	5.3685	5.3842
Algoma Township	2.6286	2.6532
Alpine Township	4.8007	4.8347
Sparta Township	1.6414	1.6621
Tyrone Township	2.8541	2.8755
Chester Township	4.6489	4.3906
Wright Township	2.9925	3.1117
Kent ISD <sup>1</sup>	5.3515	5.4020
Grand Rapids Community College	1.6793	1.6951
Coopersville Area District Library	0.7468	0.7568

<sup>1</sup> On May 2, 2017, the electors of Kent Intermediate School District approved a regional enhancement millage of 0.9 mill for a period of ten years, 2017-2026, inclusive, and on November 4, 2025, the electors of Kent Intermediate School District approved a regional enhancement millage of 0.9 mill for a period of ten years, 2027-2036, inclusive. The School District expects to receive approximately \$814,861 in fiscal year 2025/26 from the regional enhancement millage based on its pupil membership count.

Source: Kent and Ottawa Counties Equalization Departments and School District

**TAX LEVIES AND COLLECTIONS**

The School District’s fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. School District property taxes are due July 1 and December 1 of each fiscal year and are payable without interest on or before the following September 14 and February 14, respectively, and without penalty on or before the following February 14. All real property taxes remaining unpaid on March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the levy are turned over to the County Treasurers for collection. Kent and Ottawa Counties (the “Counties”) annually pay from their Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds delinquent taxes on real property to all taxing units in the Counties, including the School District, shortly after the date delinquent taxes are returned to the County Treasurers for collection.

A history of tax levies and collections for the School District is as follows:

Levy Year	Operating Tax Levy	Collections to March 1, Each Year		Collections Plus Funding to June 30, Each Year	
2025	\$3,038,146*	In Process of Collection		N/A	
2024	2,763,505	\$2,543,656	92.04%	\$2,763,505	100.00%
2023	2,666,353	2,415,068	90.58	2,662,585	99.86
2022	2,422,879	2,252,907	92.98	2,407,141	99.35
2021	2,273,750	2,143,720	94.28	2,273,750	100.00
2020	2,280,249	2,127,849	93.32	2,237,334	98.12

\*Estimated.

## RETIREMENT PLAN

For the period October 1 through September 30, the School District pays an amount equal to a percentage of its employees' wages to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System ("MPERS"), which is a statewide retirement plan for employees of Michigan public schools administered by the State of Michigan. These contributions are established and required by law and are calculated by using the contribution rates as determined annually by the State.

MPERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer, statewide plan. Pension benefits, and retiree health benefits, are established by law and funded through employer contributions. The cost of retiree health benefits is funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis, with retirees paying some of the costs. Current year liability for retiree health benefits is reflected in the figures provided below. Further information regarding MPERS, including retiree health benefits, can be found at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

Public Act 75 of 2010 ("Act 75") significantly modified MPERS and among other provisions required all employees hired after July 1, 2010 to participate in a new Pension Plus Plan which provides a combined defined benefit and defined contribution structure. Public Act 92 of 2017 ("Act 92") further modified MPERS for all employees hired on or after February 1, 2018. Act 92 requires all employees hired on or after February 1, 2018 to elect to participate in a new 401(k) style defined contribution plan or a new hybrid plan with different assumptions and cost sharing.

### Contribution to MPERS

The School District's estimated annual contribution to MPERS for the 2025-26 fiscal year and the previous four fiscal years are shown below:

Fiscal Year Ended 30-Jun	Pension Amount	Health Care Amount	Total Amount	State Aid MPERS Direct Offset Payments <sup>2</sup>
2026 <sup>1</sup>	\$4,400,531	\$673,373	\$5,073,904	\$2,510,844
2025	6,408,207	260,376	6,668,583	2,022,163
2024	6,359,062	1,243,212	7,602,274	2,991,625
2023	5,523,646	1,189,461	6,713,107	4,072,246
2022	4,677,985	1,075,744	5,753,729	2,244,496

<sup>1</sup>Estimated.

<sup>2</sup>Represents the amount the School District received in state aid categorical revenue (Section 147c MPERS UAAL Rate Stabilization and One-Time Deposits) to directly pay for a portion of the School District's MPERS unfunded liability. This amount is included in the Total Amount shown in the table above.

Effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014, GASB Statement 68 requires all reporting units in a multi-employer cost sharing pension plan to record a balance sheet liability for their proportionate share of the net pension liability of the plan. The School District implemented GASB 68 in its year ended June 30, 2015 financial statements. In its June 30, 2025 financial statements, the School District reported a proportionate share of the net pension liability of \$37,039,854 as of September 30, 2024.

Effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017, GASB Statement 75 requires all reporting units in a multi-employer cost sharing OPEB plan to record a balance sheet liability for their proportionate share of the net OPEB liability of the plan. The School District implemented GASB 75 in its year ended June 30, 2018 financial statements. In its June 30, 2025 financial statements, the School District reported a proportionate share of the net OPEB asset of \$6,454,297 as of September 30, 2024.

For additional information regarding the Pension Plan and Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB), see the Notes to the Financial Statements in the School District's audited financial statements in APPENDIX D.

*Source: Audited Financial Statements and School District*

## LABOR RELATIONS

The School District has labor agreements with the following employee groups. The agreements all provide for complete and comprehensive salary, wage, fringe benefit and working conditions provisions. The number of employees and duration of the agreements are as follows:

Employee Group	No. of Employees	Affiliation	Exp. Date of Contract
Administrators/Supt.	16	Non-Affiliated	N/A
Teachers	162	SEA/MEA	06/30/2026
Paraprofessionals/Food Service	50	SESPA/MEA	06/30/2027
Support Staff	47	Non-Affiliated	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>		

The School District has not experienced a strike by any of its bargaining units within the past ten years.

## DEBT STATEMENT\* - (As of 02/24/26 – including the Bonds described herein)

### DIRECT DEBT:

Dated Date	Purpose	Bond Type	Final Maturity	Principal Outstanding before Refunding	Refunding (Refunded) Bonds	Principal Outstanding after Refunding
06/29/16	Building & Site, Series I	UTQ	05/01/46	\$570,000	\$0	\$570,000
08/10/16	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/30	8,240,000	(7,130,000)	1,110,000*
02/15/17	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/26	500,000	0	500,000
01/09/19	Building & Site, Series II	UTQ	05/01/48	29,145,000	0	29,145,000
08/17/21	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/46	22,600,000	0	22,600,000
__/__/26	Refunding	UTQ	05/01/30	0	6,965,000	6,965,000*
<b>NET DIRECT DEBT</b>				<b>\$61,055,000</b>		<b>\$60,890,000*</b>

### OVERLAPPING DEBT:

Percent Share	Municipality	Net Debt	District's Share
28.12%	Algoma Township	\$0	\$0
16.21	Alpine Township	2,567,000	416,111
40.40	Chester Township	230,000	92,920
96.58	Sparta Township	0	0
0.81	Tyrone Township	0	0
2.35	Wright Township	0	0
100.00	Sparta Village	2,340,000	2,340,000
1.94	Kent County	58,454,544	\$1,134,018
0.32	Ottawa County	74,121,727	237,190
2.03	Kent ISD	0	0
2.03	Grand Rapids Community Coll.	16,175,000	328,353
7.55	Coopersville Area District Library	785,000	59,268

TOTAL OVERLAPPING DEBT

NET DIRECT AND OVERLAPPING DEBT

4,607,858

\$65,497,858\*

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

Source: Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan

## SCHOOL LOAN REVOLVING FUND (SLRF) PROGRAM

The School District had a SLRF balance of \$3,402,057 as of February 24, 2026.

### OTHER DEBT

The School District has no short-term borrowing outstanding.

### DEBT HISTORY

The School District has no record of default on its obligations.

### FUTURE FINANCING

The School District does not have plans for any capital financings in the next 12 months.

**DEBT RATIOS\***

Estimated School District Population	13,769
2025 Taxable Value	\$761,115,016
2025 State Equalized Value (SEV)	\$1,118,924,555
2025 True Cash Value (TCV)	\$2,237,849,110
Per Capita 2025 Taxable Value	\$55,277.44
Per Capita 2025 State Equalized Value	\$81,264.04
Per Capita 2025 True Cash Value	\$162,528.08
Per Capita Net Direct Debt	\$4,422.25
Per Capita Net Direct and Overlapping Debt	\$4,756.91
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 Taxable Value	8.00%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 Taxable Value	8.61%
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 SEV	5.44%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 SEV	5.85%
Percent of Net Direct Debt of 2025 TCV	2.72%
Percent of Net Direct and Overlapping Debt of 2025 TCV	2.93%

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

**LEGAL DEBT MARGIN\* - (As of 02/24/26 – including the Bonds described herein)**

2025 State Equalized Value		\$1,118,924,555
Legal Debt Limit - 15% of SEV		\$167,838,683
Total Bonded Debt Outstanding	\$60,890,000	
Less: SLRF Qualified Bonds <sup>1</sup>	<u>(60,890,000)</u>	
Net Amount Subject to Legal Debt Limit		<u>0</u>
LEGAL DEBT MARGIN AVAILABLE		<u><u>\$167,838,683</u></u>

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

<sup>1</sup>Section 1351(3) of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, provides that the bonded indebtedness of a school district shall not exceed 15% of the total assessed valuation of the district. Bonds not included in the computation of the legal debt margin are (1) any bond qualified under Article IX, Section 16 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and (2) deficit budget bonds as authorized under Section 1356. In addition, Section 605 of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, provides, in relevant part, that debt evidenced by a refunding security shall not be deemed to be within any statutory or charter limitation of outstanding debt limit.

## EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Listed below are the largest employers that are located within the School District and Kent County:

Employer	Product or Service	Approx. No. of Employees
<i>Within the School District</i>		
Celia Corporation (d.b.a. General Formulations)	Adhesive Vinyl Film Manufacturer	300
Sparta Area Schools	Education	275
Tesa Plant Sparta LLC	Adhesive/Tape Manufacturer	230
Cascade Die Casting Group, Inc.	Die Cast Aluminum Alloys	125
Leggett & Platt, Inc., Moiron Div.	Tube Bending & Steel Fabrication	125
CC Holdings LLC	Food and Beverage Operations	112
Hart Enterprises, Inc.	Disposable Medical Devices	105
Family Fare Supermarkets	Grocery Store	100
Spartan Graphics, Inc.	Commercial Printing	98
Jack Brown Produce	Apple Packer, Shipper & Exporter	82
<i>Within the County of Kent</i>		
Corewell Health (formerly Spectrum Health)	Healthcare	25,000
Meijer, Inc. (HQ)	Retail & Grocery	10,340
Trinity Health Grand Rapids	Healthcare	8,500
Gordon Food Service (HQ)	Wholesale Food Products	5,000
Alticor, Inc. (incl. Access Bus. & formerly Amway Corp.) (HQ)	Household Products	3,791
Farmers Insurance Group/Foremost	Direct Property & Casualty Insurance Carrier	3,500
Steelcase Inc. (part of HNI Corp.)	Office Furniture Mfg.	3,400
Lacks Enterprises, Inc. (HQ)	Automotive Trim & Wheel Trim Systems	3,000
Amazon Fulfillment Center	Ecommerce / Distribution Center	2,500
Hope Network	Healthcare	2,162
Hearthside Food Solutions LLC(4 locations)	Food Manufacturer	2,124
County of Kent	Government	1,943
Gerald R. Ford International Airport <sup>1</sup>	Airport	1,900
Grand Rapids Public Schools	Education	1,882
Wolverine World Wide Inc. (HQ)	Work Apparel & Footwear	1,700
City of Grand Rapids	Government	1,557

<sup>1</sup>In addition to the persons employed directly by the Airport Authority, the figure shown includes persons employed by airlines, TSA, rental car facilities, concessionaires, as well as other facilities at the airport.

Source: 2025 Michigan Manufacturers Directory, MEDC website via [www.michiganbusiness.org](http://www.michiganbusiness.org), and individual employers.

## EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey reports the occupational breakdown of persons 16 years and over for the Township of Sparta and the County of Kent as follows:

PERSONS BY OCCUPATION	Township of Sparta		County of Kent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	4,685	100.00%	346,230	100.00%
Management, Business, Science & Arts	1,668	35.60	150,814	43.55
Service	493	10.52	49,132	14.19
Sales & Office	837	17.87	67,132	19.39
Natural Resources, Construction & Maintenance	565	12.06	21,726	6.28
Production, Transportation & Material Moving	1,122	23.95	57,426	16.59

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey reports the breakdown by industry for persons 16 years and over for the Township of Sparta and the County of Kent as follows:

PERSONS BY INDUSTRY	Township of Sparta		County of Kent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	4,685	100.00%	346,230	100.00%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	190	4.06	2,679	0.78
Construction	359	7.66	18,298	5.28
Manufacturing	997	21.28	62,218	17.97
Wholesale Trade	144	3.07	11,337	3.27
Retail Trade	489	10.44	38,228	11.04
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	322	6.87	14,952	4.32
Information	71	1.52	4,688	1.36
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	277	5.91	20,250	5.85
Professional, Scientific & Management Services	335	7.15	40,629	11.73
Educational, Health & Social Services	1,089	23.24	82,500	23.83
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Food Services	176	3.76	27,206	7.86
Other Services except Public Administration	197	4.20	15,421	4.45
Public Administration	39	0.84	7,824	2.26

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, reports unemployment averages for the County of Kent as compared to the State of Michigan as follows:

Annual Average	County of Kent	State of Michigan
December, 2025	3.9%	4.8%
2024	3.9	4.7
2023	3.3	3.9
2022	3.5	4.2
2021	4.7	5.7

### POPULATION BY AGE

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey reports the breakdown of population by age for the Township of Sparta and the County of Kent as follows:

	Township of Sparta		County of Kent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	9,494	100.00%	663,150	100.00%
0 through 19 years	2,414	25.43	173,196	26.12
20 through 64 years	5,635	59.35	391,129	58.98
65 years and over	1,445	15.22	98,825	14.90
Median Age	39.0 years		35.9 years	

## INCOME

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey reports the breakdown of household income for the Township of Sparta and the County of Kent as follows:

HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME	Township of Sparta		County of Kent	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	3,586	100.00%	256,648	100.00%
Less than \$ 10,000	216	6.02	9,534	3.71
\$ 10,000 to \$ 14,999	87	2.43	7,598	2.97
\$ 15,000 to \$ 24,999	84	2.34	14,249	5.55
\$ 25,000 to \$ 34,999	312	8.70	14,697	5.73
\$ 35,000 to \$ 49,999	282	7.86	26,547	10.34
\$ 50,000 to \$ 74,999	735	20.50	43,505	16.95
\$ 75,000 to \$ 99,999	596	16.62	36,582	14.25
\$100,000 to \$149,999	609	16.98	49,849	19.42
\$150,000 to \$199,999	431	12.02	25,888	10.09
\$200,000 or MORE	234	6.53	28,199	10.99
Median Income	\$76,346		\$82,631	

**APPENDIX C**  
**GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY AND**  
**COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Sparta Area Schools**  
**General Fund Budget Summary**

	<u>As Adopted</u> <u>2025/26</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	
Local Sources	\$3,989,119
State Sources	30,181,944
Federal Sources	1,386,219
Incoming Transfers & Other Transactions	<u>3,539,980</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>\$39,097,262</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Instructional Services	
Basic Program	\$16,872,967
Added Needs	5,233,171
Adult/Continuing Education	844,776
Support	
Pupil	3,160,008
Instructional Staff	1,342,022
General Administration	607,982
School Administration	2,043,565
Business Services	646,631
Operation & Maintenance	3,610,389
Transportation	2,560,200
Other Central Support/Technology	1,398,790
Other Central Support/Athletics	1,037,270
Community Support	<u>578,002</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$39,935,773</u>
<b>Excess of Expenditures (over) under Revenues</b>	(\$838,511)
<b>Beginning Fund Balance - July 1</b>	<u>\$11,584,254</u>
<b>Projected Fund Balance - June 30</b>	<u><u>\$10,745,743</u></u>

*Source: School District*

**Sparta Area Schools  
General Fund  
Comparative Balance Sheet**

	For Fiscal Years Ended June 30th		
	2023	2024	2025
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$8,388,533	\$10,871,931	\$11,700,441
Accounts Receivable	18,166	27,267	23,754
Due from Other Funds	67,068	--	54,663
Due from Other Governmental Units	6,637,172	6,873,504	6,069,351
Inventory	17,042	11,252	36,794
Prepaid Expenses	3,844	52,405	28,935
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$15,131,825</u>	<u>\$17,836,359</u>	<u>\$17,913,938</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$269,144	\$351,276	\$927,004
Due to Other Funds	9,406	--	--
Due to Other Governmental Units	1,899,406	1,636,063	1,296,689
Payroll Related Accruals	10,050	48,066	4,327
Accrued Expenditures	--	14,370	--
Salaries Payable	1,642,657	1,721,809	1,902,991
Unearned Revenue	1,418,260	2,395,864	2,198,673
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$5,248,923</u>	<u>\$6,167,448</u>	<u>\$6,329,684</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable	\$20,886	\$63,657	\$65,729
Unassigned	9,862,016	11,605,254	11,518,525
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u>\$9,882,902</u>	<u>\$11,668,911</u>	<u>\$11,584,254</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<u><u>\$15,131,825</u></u>	<u><u>\$17,836,359</u></u>	<u><u>\$17,913,938</u></u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements

**Sparta Area Schools  
General Fund**

**Comparative Statement of Revenues,  
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance**

	For Fiscal Years Ended June 30th		
	2023	2024	2025
<b>Revenue</b>			
Local Sources	\$3,415,352	\$3,839,728	\$4,129,673
State Sources	29,131,160	30,450,714	30,897,902
Federal Sources	3,659,685	3,250,762	1,713,594
Interdistrict Sources	3,029,265	3,191,217	3,249,524
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$39,235,462</u>	<u>\$40,732,421</u>	<u>\$39,990,693</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current			
Instruction	\$22,763,529	\$23,214,917	\$23,880,075
Supporting Services	14,737,859	15,243,550	15,674,581
Community Service	582,960	556,288	517,757
Intergovernmental	28,800	9,600	57,600
Debt Service			
Principal	22,249	--	--
Interest and Other Expenditures	903	--	--
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$38,136,300</u>	<u>\$39,024,355</u>	<u>\$40,130,013</u>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over (Under)</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>	<u>\$1,099,162</u>	<u>\$1,708,066</u>	<u>(\$139,320)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	\$457,359	--	--
Transfers In	67,068	\$77,943	\$54,663
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>\$524,427</u>	<u>\$77,943</u>	<u>\$54,663</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	\$1,623,589	\$1,786,009	(\$84,657)
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning</b>	<u>\$8,259,313</u>	<u>\$9,882,902</u>	<u>\$11,668,911</u>
<b>Fund Balance - Ending</b>	<u><u>\$9,882,902</u></u>	<u><u>\$11,668,911</u></u>	<u><u>\$11,584,254</u></u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements

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**APPENDIX D**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The auditor was not requested to examine or review and therefore has not examined or reviewed any financial documents, statements or materials that have been or may be furnished in connection with the authorization, issuance or marketing of the Bonds and accordingly has not conducted any post-audit review procedures and will not express any opinion with respect to the accuracy or completeness of such financial documents, statements or materials.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

October 13, 2025

The Board of Education  
Sparta Area Schools

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sparta Area Schools as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Sparta Area Schools' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sparta Area Schools, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Sparta Area Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Sparta Area Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Sparta Area Schools' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Sparta Area Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Sparta Area Schools' basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 13, 2025 on our consideration of Sparta Area Schools' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Sparta Area Schools' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Sparta Area Schools' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Certified Public Accountants  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
**June 30, 2025**

As management of the Sparta Area Schools ("the District"), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the District's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of four parts: Management's Discussion and Analysis (this section), the Basic Financial Statements, Required Supplementary Information, and Supplementary Information. The Basic Financial Statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the District:

- The first two statements, the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, are *district-wide financial statements* that provide both short-term and long-term information about the District's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of the District, reporting the District's operations in more detail than the district-wide statements.
  - *Governmental funds statements* tell how basic services such as regular and special education were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.
  - *Fiduciary funds statements* provide information about the financial relationships in which the District acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others.

The Basic Financial Statements also include Notes to Financial Statements that explain the information in the Basic Financial Statements and provide more detailed data; Required Supplementary Information includes pension and OPEB information schedules; Other Supplementary Information follows and includes combining and individual fund statements and schedules.

### **District-wide Statements**

The district-wide financial statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The Statement of Net Position includes all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two district-wide statements report the District's net position, and how they have changed. Net position - the difference between the District's assets and deferred outflows of resources, and the District's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources - is one way to measure the District's financial health or position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position are an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess the District's overall health, one should consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the District's property tax-base and the condition of school buildings and other facilities.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

In the district-wide financial statements, the District's activities are presented as follows:

- *Governmental activities:* The District's basic services are included here, such as regular and special education, instructional support, transportation, administration, community services, food service and athletics. State aid and property taxes finance most of these activities.

**Condensed District-wide Financial Information**

The Statement of Net Position provides financial information on the District as a whole.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets	\$ 23,261,526	\$ 22,505,127
Net capital assets	76,109,009	78,323,844
Net OPEB asset	6,454,297	856,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>105,824,832</b>	<b>101,685,471</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>13,893,949</b>	<b>19,307,700</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities	10,795,259	10,072,222
Long-term liabilities	67,593,155	70,518,352
Net pension liability	37,039,854	48,875,052
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>115,428,268</b>	<b>129,465,626</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>18,554,933</b>	<b>11,729,531</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	6,915,607	6,216,156
Restricted	3,726,311	2,923,896
Unrestricted (deficit)	(24,906,338)	(29,342,038)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ (14,264,420)</b>	<b>\$ (20,201,986)</b>

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

The Statement of Activities presents changes in net position from operating results:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Program Revenues</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 848,246	\$ 775,564
Operating grants	17,851,105	18,460,810
<b>General Revenues</b>		
Property taxes	8,628,205	8,057,643
State school aid, unrestricted	20,137,943	20,542,102
Interest earnings	638,081	539,291
Other	695,435	1,106,148
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>48,799,015</b>	<b>49,481,558</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Instruction	21,376,865	22,502,582
Supporting services	14,499,604	15,315,690
Food service	1,575,985	1,944,133
Community services	452,119	505,760
Interest on long-term debt	2,127,998	2,675,536
Depreciation – unallocated	2,768,593	30,147
Other	60,285	32,236
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>42,861,449</b>	<b>43,006,084</b>
Increase in net position	5,937,566	6,475,474
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>(20,201,986)</b>	<b>(26,677,460)</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ (14,264,420)</b>	<b>\$ (20,201,986)</b>

**Financial Analysis of the District as a Whole**

Total revenues exceeded expenses by \$5,937,566, increasing total net position from a deficit of \$20,201,986 at June 30, 2024, to a deficit of \$14,264,420 at June 30, 2025. Unrestricted net position increased by \$4,435,700 to a deficit of \$24,906,338 at June 30, 2025. The District's net pension liability, including deferred outflows and inflows of resources, decreased by \$2,731,867 during the fiscal year, and its net OPEB asset, including deferred outflows and inflows of resources, decreased by \$2,494,211.

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

The District's financial position is the product of various financial transactions, including the net results of activities, the acquisition and payment of debt, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets, and the depreciation and amortization of capital assets. A large portion of the District's net position reflects investment in capital assets (e.g., land and improvements, buildings and improvements, vehicles, and furniture and equipment); less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to its students; consequently, they are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

The District's total revenues were \$48.8 million. Property taxes and unrestricted state aid accounted for most of the District's revenues, contributing 58.9% of the total. Another 36.6% came from state and federal aid for specific programs and the remainder from fees charged for services, interest earnings, and other miscellaneous sources.

The total cost of all programs decreased by 0.34% to \$42.9 million. The District's expenses are predominantly related to instruction (49.9%) and supporting services (33.7%), which include various functions such as caring for (pupil services) and transporting students, administrative services, and operation and maintenance services.

### Fund Financial Statements

The *fund financial statements* provide more detailed information about the District's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds - not the District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices the District uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs.

The District utilizes two kinds of funds:

- **Governmental funds:** Most of the District's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the district-wide statements, additional information following the governmental funds' statements explains the relationship (or differences) between them.
- **Fiduciary funds:** The District is the trustee, or fiduciary, for assets that belong to others, such as Custodial Funds. The District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. The District excludes these activities from the district-wide financial statements because it cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

### Financial Analysis of the District's Funds

The District uses funds to record and analyze financial information. Sparta Area School's funds are described as follows:

#### Major Funds

##### General Fund

The General Fund is the District's primary operating fund. The General Fund had total revenues of \$39,990,693, total other financing sources of \$54,663, and total expenditures of \$40,130,013. The ending fund balance was \$11,584,254 at June 30, 2025, down from \$11,668,911 as of June 30, 2024.

##### Building and Site (Sinking) Capital Projects Fund

The Building and Site (Sinking) Fund is the District's only major capital projects fund. The Building and Site Sinking Fund had total revenues of \$936,530 and total expenditures of \$275,277. The ending fund balance was \$2,573,659 at June 30, 2025 up from \$1,912,406 at June 30, 2024.

#### Nonmajor Funds

##### Special Revenue Fund

The District operates two Special Revenue Funds: the Food Service Fund and the Student/School Activity Fund. The Special Revenue Funds had total revenues of \$2,663,532, total expenditures of \$2,367,770, and total other financing uses of \$54,663. The ending fund balance in the Special Revenue Funds totaled \$1,438,770 at June 30, 2025, up from \$1,197,671 at June 30, 2024. Of the ending fund balances, \$1,031,143 is attributed to the Food Service Fund and \$407,627 is attributed to the Student/School Activity Fund

##### Debt Service Funds

The District operates five Debt Service Funds. The funds had total revenues of \$5,150,763, total financing sources of \$149,157, and total expenditures of \$5,420,582. The ending fund balances totaled \$105,022 at June 30, 2025, down from \$225,684 at June 30, 2024.

##### Capital Projects Fund

There is one nonmajor Capital Projects Funds, the 2019 Construction Fund. The Fund had total revenues of \$57,497, total expenditures of \$203,736 and total other financing uses of \$28,049. The ending fund balance was \$1,122,569 at June 30, 2025, down from \$1,296,857 at June 30, 2024.

##### Fiduciary Fund

The District operates a Custodial Fund for the benefit of organizations outside of the District. Balances on hand at June 30, 2025 totaled \$3,427.

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The District amended the budget multiple times during the school year to be in compliance with the Uniform Budgeting Act, as well as ensure our budget was as accurate as it could be at that time.

From the original budget assumptions, overall revenues increased by \$283,944. Notable factors that affected that variance can be attributed to the following highlighted areas but primarily as a result of state funding increase, local tax revenue and transportation reimbursement costs.

**Local Sources:** There was an increase in local funding of \$415,169. This is primarily due to the increase in local taxes collected as well as the district taking advantage of short-term CD’s to capitalize on higher interest rates.

**State Sources:** State sources increased by \$282,475. This is primarily attributed to the original district budget being adopted prior to the state adoption. Our student count decreased from the prior year, we budgeted for a foundation increase but did not receive one, instead we saw increased categorical funding. We also reclassified an originally budgeted inter district revenue (transportation reimbursement) to state sources which was a significant increase.

**Federal Sources:** Federal sources increased by \$40,276 which can be attributed to additional ESSER Funding (11bb) that was received.

**Interdistrict Sources:** The interdistrict and other revenues decreased by \$453,976 primarily due to special education funding increase for transportation being reclassified to a state revenue source.

**Other Financing Sources:** Food Service indirect costs are around \$60,000.

**Expenditures:** Overall final expense budget was under our original budget by \$181,662 for the 24/25 school year. We saw a decrease in most all of our functions which can primarily be attributed to the decrease in UAAL expense in 24/25 with the reduced rate. We made investments in technology and safety and security across the district which led to both maintenance and technology budgets seeing an increase of \$237,834 and \$366,222, respectively. Our staffing levels stayed pretty consistent with prior years staffing and we had settled contracts for both of our bargaining groups.

**Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

Capital Assets

By the end of 2025, the District had invested \$109.9 million in a broad range of capital assets, including land, school buildings, athletic facilities, school buses and vehicles, and administrative offices. More detailed information about capital assets can be found in Note E in the Notes to Basic Financial Statements.

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

At June 30, 2025, the District’s investment in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization) was \$76,109,009. The District had capital asset additions of \$553,758 and depreciation expense of \$2,768,593. As a result, the net book value decreased by \$2,214,835 from June 30, 2024.

Land	\$ 1,924,755
Construction in progress	198,706
Buildings and improvements	71,793,092
Furniture and equipment	1,924,758
Vehicles	<u>267,698</u>
<b>Net Capital Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 76,109,009</u></b>

Long-term Debt

At year end, the District had \$71.56 million in general obligation bonds and other long-term debt outstanding – a decrease of \$2,312,736 from June 30, 2024.

- During the current year, the District borrowed \$149,157 of State School Bond Loan Funds and accrued interest on related debt in the amount of \$136,792.
- The District continued to pay down its debt, retiring \$2,945,000 of outstanding bonds.
- The District’s bond rating for general obligation debt was affirmed by Standard and Poor’s as AA with a stable outlook. The State limits the amount of general obligation debt that schools can issue to 15 percent of the assessed value of all taxable property within a District’s boundaries.
- The District’s other obligations include compensated absences. We present more detailed information about our long-term liabilities in Note F to the Notes to Basic Financial Statements.

**Factors Bearing on the District’s Future**

At the time these financial statements were prepared and audited, the District was aware of the following existing circumstances that could significantly affect its financial health in the future:

- The District is looking at a loss of nearly 85 kids from our high school graduating class to our planned incoming kindergarten class. The large loss of students will be a significant factor for our revenue budget.
- The District has a settled contract with the SEA through 2026. And is currently negotiating the SESPA contract which expired 6/30/2025. Wages and benefit costs continue to increase across the board which creates a challenge when revenue streams are not increasing at the same rate.
- As of June 30, the State budget has not yet been adopted or agreed upon. The budget for 25/26 takes into account the Governor’s budget proposal. The House and Senate proposals have been released, but there is still a significant amount of negotiation that will need to take place.

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

- In May 2017, voters in Kent County approved the regional enhancement millage that provides approximately \$242 per pupil. This is an additional revenue stream for the district that will greatly enhance the education delivery for our students and remove some financial stress from our system. The millage will continue to provide additional opportunities for Sparta staff & students. The millage is looking to be on the November 2025 ballot for renewal.
- We are planning to continue to spend the remaining bond funds. We are planning to have completed the Appelview exterior updates project by December 2025.
- The District's sinking fund millage was renewed for 10 years in November of 2019. On an annual basis, the sinking fund generates approximately \$900,000 of tax revenue, which is used for major repairs and renovations of the District's facilities. We have some facilities needs that will need to be addressed within the next couple of years to ensure we are able to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff.
- Safety and security remain a top priority. We have 2 security members on staff, and one that serves region 1. We are anticipating continued investments in safety and security across the District.
- The uncertainty surrounding federal funding (Title funding specifically) creates a challenge for the District if the funds are not released. Federal funding also supports our adult education program which. The Adult education and Title federal funds total approximately \$900,000.

### Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide the District's citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Superintendent's Office, Sparta Area Schools, 465 S. Union Street, Sparta, Michigan 49345.

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## BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
**June 30, 2025**

	Governmental Activities
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash equivalents, deposits and investments (Note B)	\$ 17,048,625
Accounts receivable	26,843
Due from other governmental units (Note C)	6,093,800
Inventory	63,323
Prepaid expenses	28,935
Capital assets not being depreciated (Note E)	2,123,461
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net (Note E)	73,985,548
Net OPEB asset (Note H)	6,454,297
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>105,824,832</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Loss on advance bond refundings, net	88,071
Deferred pension amounts	11,958,701
Deferred OPEB amounts	1,847,177
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>13,893,949</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable	1,025,614
Due to other governmental units (Note C)	1,296,689
Accrued interest payable	391,140
Accrued salaries and payroll related expenditures	1,907,318
Unearned revenue	2,207,631
Long-term liabilities (Note F):	
Due within one year	3,966,867
Due in more than one year	67,593,155
Net pension liability (Note G)	37,039,854
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>115,428,268</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred pension amounts	10,280,176
Deferred OPEB amounts	8,274,757
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>18,554,933</b>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	6,915,607
Restricted for:	
Capital projects	2,573,659
Debt service	(286,118)
Food service	1,031,143
Student/school activity	407,627
Unrestricted (deficit)	(24,906,338)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ (14,264,420)</b>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes In Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants	
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Instruction	\$ 21,376,865	\$ 7,923	\$ 13,019,780	\$ (8,349,162)
Supporting services	14,499,604	185,880	2,703,297	(11,610,427)
Food service	1,575,985	93,663	2,004,326	522,004
Community services	452,119	560,780	-	108,661
Interest on long-term debt	2,127,998	-	123,702	(2,004,296)
Depreciation - unallocated*	2,768,593	-	-	(2,768,593)
Other	60,285	-	-	(60,285)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 42,861,449</b>	<b>\$ 848,246</b>	<b>\$ 17,851,105</b>	<b>\$ (24,162,098)</b>
<b>General Revenues</b>				
Taxes:				
Property taxes, levied for general operations				2,831,895
Property taxes, levied for debt service				4,978,426
Property taxes, levied for capital improvements				817,884
State school aid, unrestricted				20,137,943
Interest and investment earnings				638,081
Other				695,435
<b>Total General Revenues</b>				<b>30,099,664</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>				<b>5,937,566</b>
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>				<b>(20,201,986)</b>
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>				<b>\$ (14,264,420)</b>

\*This amount excludes direct depreciation expenses of the various programs.

**BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

Assets	General	Building and Site (Sinking)	Nonmajor	Total
Cash equivalents, deposits and investments (Note B)	\$ 11,700,441	\$ 2,589,434	\$ 2,758,750	\$ 17,048,625
Accounts receivable	23,754	-	3,089	26,843
Due from other funds (Note D)	54,663	-	-	54,663
Due from other governmental units (Note C)	6,069,351	-	24,449	6,093,800
Inventory	36,794	-	26,529	63,323
Prepaid expenditures	28,935	-	-	28,935
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 17,913,938</b>	<b>\$ 2,589,434</b>	<b>\$ 2,812,817</b>	<b>\$ 23,316,189</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 927,004	\$ 15,775	\$ 82,835	\$ 1,025,614
Due to other funds (Note D)	-	-	54,663	54,663
Due to other governmental units	1,296,689	-	-	1,296,689
Payroll related accruals	4,327	-	-	4,327
Salaries payable	1,902,991	-	-	1,902,991
Unearned revenue	2,198,673	-	8,958	2,207,631
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,329,684</b>	<b>15,775</b>	<b>146,456</b>	<b>6,491,915</b>
<b>Fund Balances (Note A)</b>				
Nonspendable	65,729	-	26,529	92,258
Restricted	-	2,573,659	2,639,832	5,213,491
Unassigned	11,518,525	-	-	11,518,525
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>11,584,254</b>	<b>2,573,659</b>	<b>2,666,361</b>	<b>16,824,274</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 17,913,938</b>	<b>\$ 2,589,434</b>	<b>\$ 2,812,817</b>	<b>\$ 23,316,189</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Total governmental fund balances** \$ 16,824,274

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds. The cost of assets is \$109,846,415 and accumulated depreciation/amortization is \$33,737,406. 76,109,009

Bond refunding losses are not expensed but are amortized over the life of the new bond issue. 88,071

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:

General obligation bonds	\$ (61,055,000)	
Bond premium	(6,037,337)	
State school bond loan fund (including accrued interest)	(3,311,705)	
Accumulated sick leave	(1,155,980)	(71,560,022)

Accrued interest on general obligation bonds is not included as a liability in governmental funds. (391,140)

Net pension liability and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources are not included as assets/liabilities in governmental funds:

Net pension liability	(37,039,854)	
Deferred outflows	11,958,701	
Deferred inflows	(10,280,176)	(35,361,329)

Net OPEB asset and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources are not included as assets/liabilities in governmental funds:

Net OPEB asset	6,454,297	
Deferred outflows	1,847,177	
Deferred inflows	(8,274,757)	26,717

**Total net position - governmental activities** \$ (14,264,420)

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

	General	Building and Site (Sinking)	Nonmajor	Total
<b>Revenues</b>				
Local sources	\$ 4,129,673	\$ 919,075	\$ 5,761,219	\$ 10,809,967
State sources	30,897,902	17,455	754,189	31,669,546
Federal sources	1,713,594	-	1,356,384	3,069,978
Interdistrict sources	3,249,524	-	-	3,249,524
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>39,990,693</b>	<b>936,530</b>	<b>7,871,792</b>	<b>48,799,015</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction	23,880,075	-	-	23,880,075
Supporting services	15,674,581	-	500,683	16,175,264
Food service	-	-	1,822,818	1,822,818
Community services	517,757	-	-	517,757
Intergovernmental	57,600	-	-	57,600
Capital outlay	-	275,277	249,897	525,174
Debt service:				
Principal repayment	-	-	2,945,000	2,945,000
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	2,473,690	2,473,690
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>40,130,013</b>	<b>275,277</b>	<b>7,992,088</b>	<b>48,397,378</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>(139,320)</b>	<b>661,253</b>	<b>(120,296)</b>	<b>401,637</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Proceeds from school bond loan fund	-	-	149,157	149,157
Transfers in	54,663	-	-	54,663
Transfers out	-	-	(54,663)	(54,663)
Other transactions	-	-	(28,049)	(28,049)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>54,663</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,445</b>	<b>121,108</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>(84,657)</b>	<b>661,253</b>	<b>(53,851)</b>	<b>522,745</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>11,668,911</b>	<b>1,912,406</b>	<b>2,720,212</b>	<b>16,301,529</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 11,584,254</b>	<b>\$ 2,573,659</b>	<b>\$ 2,666,361</b>	<b>\$ 16,824,274</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

<b>Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds</b>	\$ 522,745
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of these assets is capitalized and allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlay in the current period:	
Capital outlay	\$ 553,758
Depreciation expense	<u>(2,768,593)</u>
(2,214,835)	
Proceeds from leases and the sale of bonds or loans are other financing sources in the governmental funds, but increase long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.	
School bond loan fund	(149,157)
Bond premium is amortized over the life of the new bond issue on the Statement of Activities.	
	461,759
Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but it reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position and does not affect the Statement of Activities:	
General obligation bonds	2,945,000
Bond refunding losses are amortized over the life of the new bond issue on the Statement of Activities.	
	(32,236)
Interest on long-term liabilities in the Statement of Activities differs from the amount reported on the governmental funds because interest is recorded as an expenditure in the funds when it is due and paid, and thus requires the use of current financial resources. In the Statement of Activities, however, interest expense is recognized as the interest accrues regardless of when it is paid.	
General obligation bonds	20,725
State school bond loan fund	(136,792)

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Cont.)**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

In the Statement of Net Position, compensated absences for employees are measured by the amounts earned during the year. In the governmental funds, however, expenditures are measured by the amount of financial resources used (essentially, the amounts actually paid). This year the amount of these benefits earned exceeded the amounts used/paid.	\$ (705,721)
The changes in net pension liability and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources are not included as revenues/expenditures in governmental funds.	2,731,867
The changes in net OPEB asset and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources are not included as revenues/expenditures in governmental funds.	<u>2,494,211</u>
<b>Total change in net position - governmental activities</b>	<u>\$ 5,937,566</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Local sources	\$ 3,677,300	\$ 4,092,469	\$ 4,129,673	\$ 37,204
State sources	30,798,031	31,083,298	30,897,902	(185,396)
Federal sources	1,645,334	1,685,610	1,713,594	27,984
Interdistrict sources	3,762,500	3,235,732	3,249,524	13,792
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>39,883,165</b>	<b>40,097,109</b>	<b>39,990,693</b>	<b>(106,416)</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Basic programs	18,236,162	18,051,298	17,893,234	158,064
Added needs	5,264,655	5,089,170	5,009,518	79,652
Adult education services	956,424	998,280	977,323	20,957
Supporting services:				
Pupil services	3,273,061	3,206,477	3,185,187	21,290
Instructional staff services	1,294,817	1,255,791	1,219,018	36,773
General administrative services	624,115	610,267	558,453	51,814
School administrative services	1,981,209	1,842,715	1,815,585	27,130
Business services	639,765	630,701	614,947	15,754
Operation and maintenance services	3,521,640	3,759,474	3,754,929	4,545
Pupil transportation services	2,532,100	2,359,811	2,244,300	115,511
Central services	1,111,666	1,477,888	1,328,414	149,474
Other supporting services	983,528	956,351	953,748	2,603
Community services	588,788	530,445	517,757	12,688
Intergovernmental	-	57,600	57,600	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>41,007,930</b>	<b>40,826,268</b>	<b>40,130,013</b>	<b>696,255</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>(1,124,765)</b>	<b>(729,159)</b>	<b>(139,320)</b>	<b>589,839</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers in	-	70,000	54,663	15,337
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>(1,124,765)</b>	<b>(659,159)</b>	<b>(84,657)</b>	<b>605,176</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>11,668,911</b>	<b>11,668,911</b>	<b>11,668,911</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 10,544,146</b>	<b>\$ 11,009,752</b>	<b>\$ 11,584,254</b>	<b>\$ 605,176</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

Page 23

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
CUSTODIAL FUND**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025

	Custodial Fund
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash equivalents (Note B)	\$ 3,427
<b>Liabilities</b>	-
<b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for:	
Individuals and organizations	\$ 3,427

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

Page 24

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
CUSTODIAL FUND**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
For the year ended June 30, 2025**

	<u>Custodial Fund</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Contributions:	
Members	<u>\$ 2,151</u>
<b>Deductions</b>	
Distributions to members	<u>2,073</u>
<b>Net Increase in Fiduciary Net Position</b>	78
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>3,349</u>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,427</u></u>

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## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

### **Note A – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Sparta Area Schools (the "District") was organized under the School Code of the State of Michigan and services a population of approximately 2,369 students. The District is governed by an elected Board of Education consisting of seven members and administered by a Superintendent who is appointed by the aforementioned Board. The District provides a comprehensive range of educational services as specified by state statute and Board of Education policy. These services include elementary education, secondary education, pre-school programs, athletic activities, special education, community services and general administrative services. The Board of Education also has broad financial responsibilities, including the approval of the annual budget and the establishment of a system of accounting and budgetary controls.

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to school districts. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The District's significant accounting policies are described below.

#### **1. Reporting Entity**

The financial reporting entity consists of a primary government and its component units. The District is a primary government because it is a special-purpose government that has a separately elected governing body, is legally separate and is fiscally independent of other state or local governments. Furthermore, there are no component units combined with the District for financial statement presentation purposes, and the District is not included in any other governmental reporting entity. Consequently, the District's financial statements include the funds of those organizational entities for which its elected governing board is financially accountable.

#### **2. District-wide and Fund Financial Statements**

**District-wide Financial Statements** - The district-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) present financial information about the District as a whole. The reported information includes all of the nonfiduciary activities of the District. The District does not allocate indirect costs and, for the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed. These statements are to distinguish between the *governmental* and *business-type activities* of the District. *Governmental activities* normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, and are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. The District does not have any *business-type activities*.

The Statement of Net Position is reported on the full accrual, economic resources basis, which recognizes all long-term assets as well as all long-term debt and obligations. The District's net position is reported in three parts: investment in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net position, and unrestricted net position.

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Property taxes, unrestricted state aid, interest earnings and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the district-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. The District's major funds include the General Fund and the Building and Site Capital Projects Fund. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

**Fund Financial Statements** – Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Fund level statements include a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. The Balance Sheet reports current assets, current liabilities, and fund balances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances reports on the sources and uses of current financial resources. This differs from the economic resources measurement focus used to report at the district-wide level. Reconciliations between the two sets of statements are provided in separate statements.

Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual, i.e., both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are generally recorded when the liability is incurred if they are paid within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on long-term debt is recognized when due.

Revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, state aid, federal and interdistrict revenues and investment income. Other revenues are recognized when received. Unearned revenue arises when a potential revenue does not meet both the measurable and available criteria for recognition in the current period. Unearned revenue also arises when resources are received by the District before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of the qualifying expenditures.

### 3. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

District-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are the fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the grantor or provider have been met.

The State of Michigan utilizes a foundation allowance approach, which provides for a specific annual amount of revenue per student based on a state-wide formula. The foundation allowance is funded from a combination of state and local sources. Revenues from state sources are primarily governed by the School Aid Act and the School Code of Michigan. The State portion of the foundation allowance is provided from the State's School Aid Fund and is recognized as revenues in accordance with state law and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

### Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those funds through which most school district functions typically are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of a school district's expendable financial resources and the related current liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds.

*General Fund*—The General Fund is the general operating fund of a school district. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Included are all transactions related to the current operating budget.

*Special Revenue Funds*—Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

*School Service Funds*—School Service Funds are used to segregate, for administrative purposes, the transactions of a particular activity from regular revenue and expenditure accounts. A school district maintains full control of these funds. The School Service Funds maintained by the District are the Food Service and Student/School Activity Special Revenue Funds.

*Debt Service Funds*—Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, long-term debt (bonds, notes, loans, leases, and school bond loan) principal, interest, and related costs.

*Capital Projects Funds*—Capital Projects Funds are used to record bond proceeds, property tax revenues or other revenues and the disbursement of monies specifically designated for acquiring new school sites, buildings, equipment and for major remodeling and repairs. The funds are retained until the purpose for which the funds were created has been accomplished.

The Capital Projects Funds include capital project activities funded with bonds issued after May 1, 1994. For these projects, the District has complied with the applicable provisions of Section 1351a of the State of Michigan's School Code. The Capital Projects Funds also include capital project activities funded with sinking fund millage. The District has complied with the applicable provisions of Section 1212 (l) of the Revised School Code and the State of Michigan Department of Treasury Numbered Letter 2023-1.

### Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary Funds are used to account for assets held by a school district in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds.

*Custodial Funds*—The Custodial Fund accounts for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, and/or other governmental units. The District maintains funds held for the benefit of student/school groups.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted as they are needed.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**4. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

State of Michigan Public Act 621 (the Uniform Budgetary and Accounting Act) requires that the General Fund of a school district be under budgetary control and that both budgeted and actual financial results do not incur a deficit. Sparta Area Schools has also adopted budgets for its Special Revenue Funds. A school district's General Appropriations Act (the "budget") must be adopted before the beginning of each fiscal year. No violations (dollar deviations) from a district's budget may occur without a corresponding amendment to the budget. A school district has the ability to amend the budget provided that the amendment is prior to the occurrence of the deviation and prior to the fiscal year end. A school district may also permit the chief administrative or fiscal officer to execute transfers between line items, within defined dollar or percentage limits, without prior approval of the Board of Education. Expenditures may not legally exceed budgeted appropriations at the function level. All appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the original and final adopted budgets for the General Fund anticipated a budgetary deficit, reflecting expenditures in excess of budgeted revenues.

Sparta Area Schools utilizes the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- Starting in the spring, District administrative personnel and department heads work with the Superintendent to establish proposed operating budgets for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1.
- In June, preliminary operating budgets are submitted to the Board of Education. These budgets include proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- Prior to June 30, a public hearing is held to obtain taxpayer comments on the proposed budgets.
- After the budgets are finalized, the Board of Education adopts an appropriations resolution setting forth the amount of the proposed expenditures and the sources of revenue to finance them.
- The original General and Special Revenue Funds budgets were amended during the year in compliance with State of Michigan Public Act 621 (the Uniform Budgetary and Accounting Act).
- Budgets for the General and Special Revenue Funds were adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which is consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**5. Encumbrances**

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is employed as an extension of formal budget integration in the governmental funds. There were no substantial encumbrances outstanding at year end.

**6. Investments**

Investments are recorded at fair value. Investment income is composed of interest and net changes in the fair value of applicable investments.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**7. Inventories/Prepaid Items**

Inventories are valued at cost (first-in, first-out), and are accounted for using the consumption method. Inventories of the General Fund consist of teaching and custodial supplies, while inventories of the Food Service Fund consist of food, and other nonperishable supplies. Disbursements for inventory-type items are recorded as expenditures at the time of use for each fund. Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the district-wide and fund financial statements. The cost of prepaid items is recorded as expenses/expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

**8. Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include land, buildings and improvements, vehicles, furniture and equipment, and right-of-use assets related to leases, are reported in the district-wide financial statements. Assets having a useful life in excess of one year and whose costs exceed \$5,000 are capitalized. Capital assets are stated at historical cost or estimated historical cost where actual cost information is not available. Donated capital assets are stated at fair value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of an asset or materially extend an asset's useful life are not capitalized. Improvements are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining useful life of the related assets.

Buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, and vehicles are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and improvements	40 - 50 years
Furniture and equipment	3 - 10 years
Vehicles	5 - 10 years

**9. Long-term Obligations**

In the district-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities on the Statement of Net Position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds. Bonds payable are reported at the total amount of bonds issued.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuance are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuance are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as expenditures.

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

### 10. Compensated Absences

Compensated absences at the District consist of accumulated sick leave as of June 30, 2025. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the District accrues a liability for compensated absences when it is more likely than not that the benefit will be realized by the employee, either through future use or payment upon separation from service. As of June 30, 2025, total compensated absences amounted to \$1,155,980.

### 11. Retirement Plan

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, and Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date*, were implemented by the District during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. These Statements establish standards for measuring and recognizing liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For defined benefit pensions, the Statements identify the methods and assumptions that should be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about pensions also are addressed. Distinctions are made regarding the particular requirements for employers based on the number of employers whose employees are provided with pensions through the pension plan and whether pension obligations and pension plan assets are shared. Cost sharing employers are those whose employees are provided with defined benefit pensions through cost-sharing multiple-employer pension plans – pension plans in which the pension obligations to the employees of more than one employer are pooled and plan assets can be used to pay the benefits of the employees of any employer that provides pensions through the pension plan.

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and additions to/deductions from MPERS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by MPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Plan investments are reported at fair value.

### 12. Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, was implemented by the District during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. This Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For defined benefit OPEB plans, the Statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about OPEB are also addressed. Distinctions are made regarding the particular requirements depending upon whether the OPEB plans through which the benefits are provided are administered through trusts that meet specific criteria. Cost-sharing employers are those whose employees are provided with defined benefit OPEB through cost-sharing multiple-employer OPEB plans—OPEB plans in which the OPEB obligations to the employees of more than one employer are pooled and plan assets can be used to pay the benefits of the employees of any employer that provides OPEB through the OPEB plan.

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB credit, information about the fiduciary net position of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and additions to/deductions from MPERS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by MPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Plan investments are reported at fair value.

### 13. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has three such items that qualify for reporting in this category: the deferred charge on a previous year's bond refunding, the deferred outflows of resources relating to the recognition of net pension liability on the financial statements and the deferred outflows of resources relating to the recognition of net OPEB asset on the financial statements.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has two types of items that qualify for reporting in this category: the deferred inflows of resources relating to the recognition of net pension liability on the financial statements and the deferred inflows of resources relating to the recognition of net OPEB asset on the financial statements.

### 14. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets, net of related debt, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition or construction of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws, or regulations from other governments.

### 15. Fund Balances

The District has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54 *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. The stated objective of GASB Statement No. 54 is to enhance the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied and by clarifying the existing governmental fund type definitions. This Statement establishes fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds, detailed as follows:

- Nonspendable – resources that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (inventories and prepaid amounts) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (the principal of a permanent fund).

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

- Restricted – resources that cannot be spent because of (a) constraints externally imposed by creditors (debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation.
- Committed – resources that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority (Board of Education). Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance does not lapse at year end.
- Assigned – resources that are constrained by the government's *intent* to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. Intent should be expressed by (a) the governing body itself or (b) a body or official to which the governing body has designated the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes. Sparta Area Schools' Board of Education has delegated authority to assign fund balances for a specific purpose to the Superintendent or his designee. Assigned fund balance does not lapse at year end.
- Unassigned – unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund. The General Fund should be the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount.

Sparta Area Schools has established a policy for its use of unrestricted fund balance amounts, and the District considers that committed amounts would be reduced first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

The District's Unassigned General Fund Balance will be maintained to provide the District with sufficient working capital and a margin of safety to address local and regional emergencies without unnecessary borrowing. The Unassigned General Fund Balance may only be appropriated by resolution of the Board of Education. It is recognized that it will not always be possible to avoid borrowing to provide cash flow.

The Board recognizes that good fiscal management comprises the foundational support of the entire District. To make that support as effective as possible, the Board intends to maintain a fund balance of 15% of the District General Fund annual operating expenditures.

### 16. Interfund Activity

Flows of cash from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated in the Statement of Activities. Interfund transfers in the fund financial statements are reported as other financing sources/uses.

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

### 17. Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

### Note B – Cash Equivalents, Deposits, and Investments

The State of Michigan allows a political subdivision to authorize its Treasurer or other chief fiscal officer to invest surplus funds belonging to and under the control of the entity as follows:

- Bonds, bills, or notes of the United States; obligations, the principal and interest of which are fully guaranteed by the United States; or obligations of the State.
- Certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a financial institution, but only if the financial institution is a state or nationally chartered bank or a state or federally chartered savings and loan association, savings bank, or credit union whose deposits are insured by an agency of the United States government and that maintains a principal office or branch office located in this State under the laws of this State or the United States.
- Commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the 2 highest classifications established by not less than 2 standard rating services and that matures not more than 270 days after the date of the purchase.
- Securities issued or guaranteed by agencies or instrumentalities of the United States government.
- United States government or Federal agency obligation repurchase agreements.
- Banker's acceptances issued by a bank that is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
- Mutual funds composed entirely of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by a school district in Michigan.
- Investment pools, as authorized by the surplus funds investment pool act, Act No. 367 of the Public Acts of 1982, being sections 129.11 to 129.118 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, composed entirely of instruments that are legal for direct investment by a school district in Michigan.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

Balances at June 30, 2025 related to cash equivalents, deposits, and investments are detailed in the Basic Financial Statements as follows:

Statement of Net Position:	
Governmental activities	\$ 17,048,625
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position:	
Fiduciary activities	<u>3,427</u>
	<u>\$ 17,052,052</u>

**Cash Equivalents and Deposits**

Depositories actively used by the District during the year are detailed as follows:

- Choice One Bank

Cash equivalents consist of bank public funds checking accounts, and deposits consist of certificates of deposit.

June 30, 2025 balances are detailed as follows:

Cash equivalents	\$ 6,092,089
Deposits	<u>7,611,338</u>
	<u>\$ 13,703,427</u>

*Custodial Credit Risk Related to Bank Deposits*

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to the District. Protection of District deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At year end, the carrying amount of the District's cash equivalents and deposits was \$13,703,427 and the bank balance was \$14,061,917. Of the bank balance, \$500,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and \$13,561,917 was uninsured and uncollateralized.

**Investments**

As of June 30, 2025, the District had the following investments:

Surplus Funds Investment Pool Account:	
Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+) – Cash Management Class	\$ 3,494
Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+) – MAX Class	<u>3,345,131</u>
	<u>\$ 3,348,625</u>

The Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+) is an external pooled investment fund that includes qualified investments in accordance with the applicable sections of the School Code. MILAF is not regulated or registered with the Securities Exchange Commission. The MILAF+ is carried at amortized cost and is rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's rating agency. The MILAF+ MAX Class requires a 14-day redemption notice.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

*Custodial Credit Risk Related to Investments*

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a failure of the counterparty, the District may not be able to recover the value of its investments of collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District will minimize custodial credit risk by limiting investments to the types of securities allowed by law; and pre-qualifying the financial institutions, broker/dealers, intermediaries, and advisors with which the District will do business. At June 30, 2025, the District had no investments that were subject to custodial credit risk.

*Credit Risk*

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty in an investment will not fulfill its obligation. The District's investment policy does not specifically address credit risk but minimizes its credit risk by limiting investments to the types allowed by the State.

*Interest Rate Risk*

The District minimizes interest rate risk, which is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates, by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market, and, investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the District's cash requirements.

*Concentration of Credit Risk*

The District minimizes concentration of credit risk which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the District's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized. The District's investment policy places no restrictions on the amount or percentage that may be invested in any one type of security.

*Foreign Currency Risk*

The District is not authorized to invest in investments which have this type of risk.

**Note C – State School Aid/Property Taxes**

On March 15, 1994, the voters of the State of Michigan approved Proposal A, which increased the State Sales and Use Tax rates from 4% to 6% and established a State Education Tax at a rate of 6 mills on all property, except that which is exempt by law from ad valorem property taxes, and dedicated the additional revenues generated to Michigan school districts.

These additional State revenues pass through to Michigan school districts in the form of a per pupil "Foundation Allowance" paid on a "blended count" of District pupil membership in February 2024 and October 2024. The 2024-25 "Foundation Allowance" for Sparta Area Schools was \$9,608 for 2,371 "Full Time Equivalent" students, generating \$28,991,936 in state aid payments to the District, of which \$5,112,351 was paid to the District in July and August 2025 and included in "Due From Other Governmental Units" of the General Fund and Food Service Special Revenue Fund of the District.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

Property taxes for the District are levied July 1 and December 1 (the tax lien dates) under a split-levy system by the Townships of Algoma, Alpine, Tyrone, Chester, Wright, and Sparta, and are due 75 days after the levy date. The taxes are then collected by each governmental unit and remitted to the District. The Counties of Kent and Ottawa, through its Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, advances all delinquent real property taxes at March 1 to the District each year prior to June 30.

Section 1211(1) of 1993 PA 312 states that beginning in 1994, the board of a school district shall levy not more than 18 mills, if approved by voters, for school operating purposes, or the number of mills levied in 1993, whichever is less, on non-homestead property only, in order to be eligible to receive funds under the State School Aid Act of 1979. After 1996, electors may approve a 3 mill "Local Enhancement Millage" which must be shared between all local districts in each respective county intermediate district.

As Sparta Area Schools' electors had previously (August 2014) approved a ten-year operating millage extension, the 18 mill non-homestead property tax was levied in the District for 2024.

The District levied 7.00 mills in 2024 for debt service purposes, and 1.15 mills for the building and site (sinking) fund, applied on all taxable property in the District.

Taxable property in the District is assessed initially at 50% of true cash value by the assessing officials of the various units of government that comprise the District. These valuations are then equalized by the county and finally by the State of Michigan, generating the State Equalized Valuation. Taxable valuation increases will be limited, or capped (known as capped valuation), at 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. With the implementation of Proposal A and Public Act 36, taxable property is now divided into two categories: PRE and NPRE.

A principal residence exemption property (PRE) is exempt from the 18 mill "School Operating" tax. It is not exempt from the 6 mill "State Education" tax, any voted "Local Enhancement Millage" nor any additional voted millage for the retirement of debt.

Non-principal residence exemption property (NPRE) is subject to all District levies. However, since Public Act 36, establishing the Michigan Business Tax, was signed into law, Public Acts 37-40 of 2007 now exempt Industrial Personal Property from the 6 mill State Education Tax and up to 18 mills of local school district operating millage (includes property under Industrial Facilities Tax); and exempt Commercial Personal Property from up to 12 mills of local school district operating millage (exceptions may apply).

The District is subject to tax abatements granted by the County of Kent with local businesses under the Plant Rehabilitation and Industrial Development Districts Act, (known as the Industrial Facilities Exemption) PA 198 of 1974, as amended, provides a tax incentive to manufacturers to enable renovation and expansion of aging facilities, assists in the building of new facilities, and promotes the establishment of high tech facilities. An Industrial Facilities Exemption (IFE) certificate entitles the facility to exemption from ad valorem real and/or personal property taxes for a term up to 12 years as determined by the local unit of government. The agreements entered into by each local unit include claw back provisions should the recipient of the tax abatement fail to fully meet its commitments, such as employment levels and timelines for relocation. The tax abated property taxes are calculated by applying half the local property tax millage rate on the total IFT taxable value. This amounts to a reduction in property tax revenue of approximately 50%.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District's property tax revenues were reduced by approximately \$209,905 under these agreements.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note D – Interfund Receivables/Payables**

Interfund receivables and payables at June 30, 2025 representing unreimbursed expenditures at year end are detailed as follows:

	<u>Due From</u>	<u>Due To</u>
<b>Major Funds:</b>		
General Fund:		
Special Revenue Funds:		
Food Service	\$ 54,663	\$ -
<b>Nonmajor Funds:</b>		
Special Revenue Funds:		
Food Service:		
General Fund	-	54,663
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<u>\$ 54,663</u>	<u>\$ 54,663</u>

Transfers between funds during the year ended June 30, 2025 were as follows:

	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
<b>Major Funds:</b>		
General Fund:		
Special Revenue Funds:		
Food Service	\$ 54,663	\$ -
<b>Nonmajor Funds:</b>		
Special Revenue Funds:		
Food Service:		
General Fund	-	54,663
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<u>\$ 54,663</u>	<u>\$ 54,663</u>

Transfers made during the year ended June 30, 2025 were for indirect costs from the Food Service Fund to the General Fund.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note E – Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2025 was as follows:

	Balances July 1, 2024		Additions	Deductions	Balances June 30, 2025	
Capital assets not being depreciated:						
Land	\$ 1,924,755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,924,755	
Construction in progress	-	198,706	-	-	198,706	
Total capital assets not being depreciated	1,924,755	\$ 198,706	\$ -	-	2,123,461	
Capital assets being depreciated and amortized:						
Buildings and improvements	102,215,285	\$ 83,502	\$ -	-	102,298,787	
Furniture and equipment	4,432,346	271,550	-	-	4,703,896	
Vehicles	720,271	-	-	-	720,271	
Intangible right-of-use assets - leases	73,741	-	-	73,741	-	
Total capital assets being depreciated and amortized	107,441,643	\$ 355,052	\$ 73,741	-	107,722,954	
Less accumulated depreciation for:						
Buildings and improvements	27,977,469	\$ 2,528,226	\$ -	-	30,505,695	
Furniture and equipment	2,591,520	187,618	-	-	2,779,138	
Vehicles	399,824	52,749	-	-	452,573	
Less accumulated amortization for:						
Intangible right-of-use assets - leases	73,741	-	-	73,741	-	
Total accumulated depreciation and amortization	31,042,554	\$ 2,768,593	\$ 73,741	-	33,737,406	
Total capital assets being depreciated and amortized, net	76,399,089				73,985,548	
<b>Net Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$ 78,323,844</b>				<b>\$ 76,109,009</b>	

Depreciation expense for the District was \$2,768,593. The District determined that it was impractical to allocate depreciation to various governmental activities as the assets serve multiple functions.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note F – Long-term Obligations**

Changes in long-term obligations for the year ended June 30, 2025 are summarized as follows:

	Debt Outstanding July 1, 2024		Adjustment	Debt Added	Debt Retired	Debt Outstanding June 30, 2025
General obligation bonds:						
June 7, 2016	\$ 1,095,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525,000	\$ 570,000
July 11, 2016	8,240,000	-	-	-	-	8,240,000
January 19, 2017	2,265,000	-	-	-	1,765,000	500,000
January 9, 2019	29,800,000	-	-	-	655,000	29,145,000
August 17, 2021	22,600,000	-	-	-	-	22,600,000
Bond premium	6,499,096	-	-	-	461,759	6,037,337
School bond loan fund	2,923,403	102,353 *	285,949	-	-	3,311,705
Compensated absences	450,259	738,672 **	-	-	32,951	1,155,980
	<b>\$ 73,872,758</b>	<b>\$ 841,025</b>	<b>\$ 285,949</b>	<b>\$ 3,439,710</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,560,022</b>

\* - Interest accrued during 2023-2024 was improperly excluded from the SBLF liability balance as of June 30, 2024

\*\* - See Note K - Change in Accounting Estimate

Long-term obligations outstanding at June 30, 2025 is comprised of the following:

	Final Maturity Dates	Interest Rates	Outstanding Balance	Amount Due Within One Year
<b>General Obligation Bonds</b>				
\$19,410K Building and Site Series I, June 7, 2016: Annual maturities of \$570K	May 1, 2026	4.00 %	\$ 570,000	\$ 570,000
\$8,320K Refunding July 11, 2016: Annual maturities of \$970K to \$2,090K	May 1, 2030	4.00 - 5.00	8,240,000	1,110,000
\$8,845K Refunding January 19, 2017: Annual maturities of \$500K	May 1, 2026	4.00	500,000	500,000
\$32,110K Building and Site Series II, January 9, 2019: Annual maturities of \$890K to \$1,450K	May 1, 2048	4.75 - 5.00	29,145,000	890,000
\$22,600K Refunding August 17, 2021: Annual maturities of \$200K to \$2,650K beginning May 1, 2026	May 1, 2046	1.00 - 3.01	22,600,000	200,000
Bond premium			6,037,337	461,757
<b>Other Obligations</b>				
State school bond loan			3,311,705	-
Compensated absences			1,155,980	235,110
			<b>\$ 71,560,022</b>	<b>\$ 3,966,867</b>

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

The District obtained loans from the Michigan School Bond Loan Fund (SBLF) for the payment of annual maturities of its general obligation bonds. There is no fixed maturity schedule for the repayment of these loans. Instead, the principal and interest are payable when taxes levied for debt service are no longer needed to retire bonded debt. During the year, the District obtained a loan in the amount of \$149,157 and accrued interest of \$136,792 on total SBLF debt. At June 30, 2025, the District owed the SBLF a total of \$3,311,705.

The annual requirements to pay principal and interest on long-term bonds are as follows:

Years Ending June 30	General Obligation Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 3,270,000	\$ 2,346,840	\$ 5,616,840
2027	3,850,000	2,202,048	6,052,048
2028	4,150,000	2,064,500	6,214,500
2029	4,920,000	1,917,750	6,837,750
2030	3,785,000	1,753,716	5,538,716
2031	3,900,000	1,624,826	5,524,826
2032	2,285,000	1,512,956	3,797,956
2033	2,265,000	1,429,104	3,694,104
2034	2,265,000	1,344,650	3,609,650
2035	2,310,000	1,258,876	3,568,876
2036	2,300,000	1,173,259	3,473,259
2037	2,280,000	1,086,879	3,366,879
2038	2,265,000	996,507	3,261,507
2039	2,310,000	906,040	3,216,040
2040	2,290,000	812,727	3,102,727
2041	2,275,000	719,292	2,994,292
2042	2,260,000	626,271	2,886,271
2043	2,305,000	532,481	2,837,481
2044	2,290,000	436,336	2,726,336
2045	2,275,000	339,556	2,614,556
2046	2,305,000	243,227	2,548,227
2047	1,450,000	145,000	1,595,000
2048	1,450,000	72,500	1,522,500
	<u>\$ 61,055,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,545,341</u>	<u>\$ 86,600,341</u>

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note G – Retirement Plan**

**Plan Description**

The Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS) (the "System") is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, state-wide, defined benefit public employee retirement plan and fiduciary component unit of the State of Michigan (State) originally created under Public Act 136 of 1945, recodified and currently operating under the provisions of Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended. Section 25 of this act establishes the board's authority to promulgate or amend the provisions of the System. The board consists of twelve members – eleven appointed by the Governor, and the State Superintendent of Instruction, who serves as the ex-officio member.

The System's pension plan was established by the State to provide retirement, survivor, and disability benefits to public school employees. In addition, the System's health plan provides all retirees with the option of receiving health, prescription drug, dental and vision coverage under the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement Act (1980 PA 300 as amended).

The System is administered by the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) within the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. The Department Director appoints the Office Director, with whom the general oversight of the System resides. The State Treasurer serves as the investment officer and custodian for the System.

The System's financial statements are available at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

**Benefits Provided**

Benefit provisions of the defined benefit pension plan are established by State statute, which may be amended. Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, establishes eligibility and benefit provisions for the defined benefit (DB) pension plan. Depending on the plan option selected, member retirement benefits are determined by final average compensation, years of service, and a pension factor ranging from 1.25 percent to 1.50 percent. DB members are eligible to receive a monthly benefit when they meet certain age and service requirements. The age and service requirements range from attaining the age of 46 to 60 with years of service ranging from 5 to 30 years, depending on when the employee became a member. Early retirement is computed in the same manner as a regular pension but is permanently reduced by .50 percent for each full and partial month between the pension effective date and the date the member will attain age 60. There is no mandatory retirement age. The System also provides disability and survivor benefits to DB plan members.

Certain employees have the option to participate in the defined contribution (DC) plan that provides a 50 percent employer match (up to 3 percent of salary) on employee contributions.

Benefit terms provide for annual cost of living adjustments to each employee's retirement allowance subsequent to the employee's retirement date. The annual adjustment, if applicable, is 3 percent. Some members who do not receive an annual increase are eligible to receive a supplemental payment in those years when investment earnings exceed actuarial assumptions.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
June 30, 2025

A DB plan member who leaves Michigan public school employment may request a refund of his or her member contributions to the retirement system account if applicable. A refund cancels a former member's rights to future benefits. However, returning members who previously received a refund of their contributions may reinstate their service through repayment of the refund upon satisfaction of certain requirements.

**Contributions**

Employers are required by Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, to contribute amounts necessary to finance the coverage of active and retired members. Contribution provisions are specified by State statute and may be amended only by action of the State Legislature.

Employer contributions to the System are determined on an actuarial basis using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. Under this method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in the actuarial valuation is allocated on a level basis over the service of the individual between entry age and assumed exit age. The portion of this cost allocated to the current valuation year is called the normal cost. The remainder is called the actuarial accrued liability. Normal cost is funded on a current basis. The unfunded (overfunded) actuarial accrued liability as of the September 30, 2023 valuation will be amortized over a 15-year period beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2038.

The schedule below summarizes pension contribution rates in effect for the plan fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

Plan Name	Pension Contribution Rates:		
	Plan Status	Member	District
Basic	Closed	0.0 – 4.0%	23.03%
Member Investment Plan (MIP)	Closed	3.0 – 7.0%	23.03%
Pension Plus (Hybrid)	Closed	3.0 – 6.4%	19.17%
Pension Plus 2 (Hybrid)	Open	6.2%	20.10%
Defined Contribution	Open	0.0%	13.90%

The District's contributions to MPSERS under all pension plans for the year ended June 30, 2025 inclusive of the MSPERS UAAL Stabilization, totaled \$6,408,207.

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

As of June 30, 2025, the District reported a liability of \$37,039,854 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation rolled forward from September 2023. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was determined by dividing each employer's statutorily required pension contributions to the System during the measurement period by the percent of the pension contributions required from all applicable employers during the measurement period. As of September 30, 2024 the District's proportion was 0.15129413%, which was an increase from 0.15100708% at September 30, 2023.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
June 30, 2025

For the year ended June 30, 2025 the District recognized pension expense of \$3,584,688. As of June 30, 2025, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,004,917	\$ 402,443
Changes of assumptions	3,861,624	2,713,850
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	–	7,068,774
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	1,074,698	95,109
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date*	6,017,462	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,958,701</b>	<b>\$ 10,280,176</b>

\* This amount, reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2026.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Years Ending June 30	Amount
2026	\$ (600,671)
2027	598,175
2028	(2,504,330)
2029	(1,832,111)

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Actuarial Assumptions**

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Summary of Actuarial Assumptions:

Valuation Date:	September 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age, Normal
Wage Inflation Rate:	2.75%
Investment Rate of Return:	
MIP and Basic Plans:	6.00% net of investment expenses
Pension Plus Plan:	6.00% net of investment expenses
Pension Plus 2:	6.00% net of investment expenses
Projected Salary Increases:	2.75% - 11.55%, including wage inflation of 2.75%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments:	3% annual non-compounded for MIP members
Mortality:	
Retirees:	PubT-2010 Male and Female Retiree Mortality Tables scaled by 116% for males and 116% for females and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.
Active Members:	PubT-2010 Male and Female Employee Mortality Tables scaled by 100% and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.

Notes:

- Assumption changes as a result of an experience study for the period 2017 through 2022 have been adopted by the System for use in the annual pension valuations beginning with the September 30, 2023 valuation. The total pension liability as of September 30, 2024 is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of September 30, 2023 and rolled forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures, including the experience study.
- Recognition period for liabilities is the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees in years: [4.4612 for non-university employers].
- Recognition period for assets in years: 5.0000.
- Full actuarial assumptions are available in the 2024 MPSERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report found on the ORS website at ([www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools)).

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Plan Investments**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2024 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Investment Category</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return*</u>
Domestic Equity Pools	25.0%	5.3%
Private Equity Pools	16.0%	9.6%
International Equity Pools	15.0%	6.5%
Fixed Income Pools	13.0%	2.2%
Real Estate and Infrastructure Pools	10.0%	7.1%
Absolute Return Pools	9.0%	5.2%
Real Return/Opportunistic Pools	10.0%	6.9%
Short-term Investment Pools	2.0%	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

\*Long-term rates of return are net of administrative expenses and 2.3% inflation.

**Rate of Return**

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was 15.47%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

**Discount Rate**

A discount rate of 6.00% was used to measure the total pension liability (6.00% for the Pension Plus Plan, 6.00% for the Pension Plus 2 Plan, hybrid plans provided through non-university employers only). This discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 6.00% (6.00% for the Pension Plus Plan, 6.00% for the Pension Plus 2 plan). The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.00% (6.00% for the Pension Plus plan, 6.00% for the Pension Plus 2 plan), as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher:

	1% Decrease 5.00%	Current Single Discount Rate Assumption 6.00%	1% Increase 7.00%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 54,300,824	\$ 37,039,854	\$ 22,666,776

**Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS) Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System September 30, 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, available here: ([www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools)).

**Payables to the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS)**

Payables to the pension plan totaling \$831,235 arise from the normal legally required contributions based on the accrued salaries payable at year end, expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The payables are included in the "Due to Other Governmental Units" at June 30, 2025.

**Note H – Other Postemployment Benefits**

**Plan Description**

The Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS or "System") is a cost-sharing, multiple- employer, state-wide, defined benefit public employee retirement plan and a fiduciary component unit of the State of Michigan (State) originally created under Public Act 136 of 1945, recodified and currently operating under the provisions of Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended. Section 25 of this act establishes the board's authority to promulgate or amend the provisions of the System. The board consists of twelve members— eleven appointed by the Governor and the State Superintendent of Instruction, who serves as an ex-officio member.

The System's health plan provides all eligible retirees with the option of receiving health, prescription drug, dental and vision coverage under the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement Act (1980 PA 300 as amended).

The System is administered by the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) within the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. The Department Director appoints the Office Director, with whom the general oversight of the System resides. The State Treasurer serves as the investment officer and custodian for the System.

The System's financial statements are available on the ORS website at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Benefits Provided**

Benefit provisions of the postemployment healthcare plan are established by State statute, which may be amended. Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, establishes eligibility and benefit provisions. Retirees have the option of health coverage, which, through 2012, was funded on a cash disbursement basis. Beginning fiscal year 2013, it is funded on a prefunded basis. The System has contracted to provide comprehensive group medical, prescription drug, dental and vision coverage for retirees and beneficiaries. A subsidized portion of the premium is paid by the System with the balance deducted from the monthly pension of each retiree healthcare recipient. For members who first worked before July 1, 2008, (Basic, MIP-Fixed, and MIP Graded plan members) the subsidy is the maximum allowed by statute. To limit future liabilities of Other Postemployment Benefits, members who first worked on or after July 1, 2008 (MIP-Plus plan members) have a graded premium subsidy based on career length where they accrue credit towards their insurance premiums in retirement, not to exceed the maximum allowable by statute. Public Act 300 of 2012 sets the maximum subsidy at 80% beginning January 1, 2013; 90% for those Medicare eligible and enrolled in the insurances as of that date. Dependents are eligible for healthcare coverage if they meet the dependency requirements set forth in Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended.

Public Act 300 of 2012 granted all active members of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System, who earned service credit in the 12 months ending September 3, 2012 or were on an approved professional services or military leave of absence on September 3, 2012, a voluntary election regarding their retirement healthcare. Any changes to a member's healthcare benefit are effective as of the member's transition date, which is defined as the first day of the pay period that begins on or after February 1, 2013.

Under Public Act 300 of 2012, members were given the choice between continuing the 3% contribution to retiree healthcare and keeping the premium subsidy benefit described above, or choosing not to pay the 3% contribution and instead opting out of the subsidy benefit and becoming a participant in the Personal Healthcare Fund (PHF), a portable, tax-deferred fund that can be used to pay healthcare expenses in retirement. Participants in the PHF are automatically enrolled in a 2% employee contribution into their 457 account as of their transition date, earning them a 2% employer match into a 401(k) account. Members who selected this option stop paying the 3% contribution to retiree healthcare as of the day before their transition date, and their prior contributions were deposited into their 401(k) account.

**Contributions**

Employers are required by Public Act 300 of 1980, as amended, to contribute amounts necessary to finance the coverage of active and retired members. Contribution provisions are specified by State statute and may be amended only by action of the State Legislature.

Employer OPEB contributions to the System are determined on an actuarial basis using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. Under this method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in the actuarial valuation is allocated on a level basis over the service of the individual between entry age and assumed exit age. The portion of this cost allocated to the current valuation year is called the normal cost. The remainder is called the actuarial accrued liability. Normal cost is funded on a current basis. The unfunded (overfunded) actuarial accrued liability as of the September 30, 2023 valuation will be amortized over a 15-year period beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2038.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

The schedule below summarizes OPEB contribution rates in effect for fiscal year ended September 30, 2024:

**OPEB Contribution Rates:**

Benefit Structure	Member	District
Premium Subsidy	3.0%	8.31%
Personal Healthcare Fund (PHF)	0.0%	7.06%

Required contributions to the OPEB plan from the District were \$260,376 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**OPEB Assets, OPEB Credit, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

As of June 30, 2025, the District reported an asset of \$6,454,297 for its proportionate share of the MPSERS net OPEB asset. The net OPEB asset was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total OPEB asset used to calculate the net OPEB asset was determined by an actuarial valuation rolled forward from September 2023. The District's proportion of the net OPEB asset was determined by dividing each employer's statutorily required OPEB contributions to the System during the measurement period by the percent of OPEB contributions required from all applicable employers during the measurement period. As of September 30, 2024 the District's proportion was 0.14994657%, which was a decrease from 0.15140577% at September 30, 2023.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized OPEB credit of \$2,233,468. At June 30, 2025, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ —	\$ 6,839,583
Changes of assumptions	1,409,711	162,035
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	—	1,221,872
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	313,293	51,267
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date*	124,173	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,847,177</b>	<b>\$ 8,274,757</b>

\* This amount, reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as an addition of the net OPEB asset in the year ended June 30, 2026.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Years Ending June 30	Amount
2026	\$ (2,145,446)
2027	(1,252,280)
2028	(1,228,541)
2029	(1,160,571)
2030	(642,394)
Thereafter	(122,521)

**Actuarial Assumptions**

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
June 30, 2025

Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Summary of Actuarial Assumptions:

Valuation Date:	September 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age, Normal
Wage Inflation Rate:	2.75%
Investment Rate of Return:	6.00% net of investment expense
Projected Salary Increases:	2.75% - 11.55%, including wage inflation of 2.75%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate:	Pre-65 - 7.25% Year 1 graded to 3.5% Year 15 Post-65 - 6.50% Year 1 graded to 3.5% Year 15
Mortality:	
Retirees:	PubT-2010 Male and Female Retiree Mortality Tables, scaled by 116% for males and 116% for females and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.
Active Members:	PubT-2010 Male and Female Employee Mortality Tables, scaled 100% and adjusted for mortality improvements using projection scale MP-2021 from 2010.
Other Assumptions:	
Opt Out Assumptions:	21% of eligible participants hired before July 1, 2008 and 30% of those hired after June 30, 2008 are assumed to opt out of the retiree health plan.
Survivor Coverage:	80% of male retirees and 67% of female retirees are assumed to have coverages continuing after the retiree's death.
Coverage Election at Retirement:	75% of male and 60% of female future retirees are assumed to elect coverage for one or more dependents.

Notes:

- Assumption changes as a result of an experience study for the period 2017 through 2022 have been adopted by the System for use in the annual OPEB valuations beginning with the September 30, 2023 valuation. The total OPEB liability as of September 30, 2024 is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of September 30, 2023 and rolled forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures, including the experience study.
- Recognition period for liabilities is the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees in years: [6.2834 for non-university employers].
- Recognition period for assets in years: 5.0000.
- Full actuarial assumptions are available in the 2024 MPSERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report found on the ORS website at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS**  
June 30, 2025

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Plan Investments**

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of OPEB plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the OPEB plan's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2024, are summarized in the following table:

<b>Investment Category</b>	<b>Target Allocation</b>	<b>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return*</b>
Domestic Equity Pools	25.0%	5.3%
Private Equity Pools	16.0%	9.0%
International Equity Pools	15.0%	6.5%
Fixed Income Pools	13.0%	2.0%
Real Estate and Infrastructure Pools	10.0%	7.1%
Absolute Return Pools	9.0%	5.2%
Real Return/Opportunistic Pools	10.0%	6.9%
Short-term Investment Pools	2.0%	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

\* Long-term rates of return are net of administrative expenses and 2.3% inflation.

**Rate of Return**

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the annual money-weighted rate of return on OPEB plan investments, net of OPEB plan investment expense, was 15.45%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

**Discount Rate**

A discount rate of 6.00% was used to measure the total OPEB liability. This discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments of 6.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine this discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using the discount rate of 6.00 percent, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher:

	1% Decrease 5.00%	Current Discount Rate 6.00%	1% Increase 7.00%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (4,987,934)	\$ (6,454,297)	\$ (7,722,122)

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Healthcare Cost Trend Rate**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using assumed trend rates, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a trend rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher:

	1% Decrease	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (7,722,136)	\$ (6,454,297)	\$ (5,094,546)

**OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued 2024 MPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, available on the ORS website at [www.michigan.gov/orsschools](http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools).

**Payables to the OPEB Plan**

Payables to the OPEB plan totaling \$15,104 arise from the normal legally required contributions based on the accrued salaries payable at year end, expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The payables are included in the "Due to Other Governmental Units" at June 30, 2025.

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note I – Risk Management and Employee Benefits**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors and omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation), as well as medical benefits provided to employees. The District has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, errors and omissions, workers' compensation, health benefits, and dental and vision benefits provided to employees. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage in fiscal 2024-25, and as of year ended June 30, 2025, there were no material pending claims against the District.

**Note J – Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability**

The District has an unrestricted net position deficit of \$25,062,766 and a total net position deficit of \$14,420,848 as of June 30, 2025. These deficit net positions result primarily from the net pension liability of \$35,361,329 (net of deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources).

**Note K – Change in Accounting Estimate**

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the District re-evaluated its policies and estimates used to recognize liabilities for compensated absences to more accurately reflect obligations related to current employment arrangements, as required by applicable accounting standards. This change led to an increase of \$738,672 to the compensated absences liability reported in the government-wide financial statements and enhances the accuracy and consistency of the District's financial reporting.

**Note L – Change within the Financial Reporting Entity**

During the year ended June 30, 2025 the District reassessed the classification of governmental funds. As a result of this reassessment, the Building and Site (Sinking) Fund, previously report as a nonmajor fund, is now reported as a major fund.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
MPSERS COST-SHARING MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER PLAN**

	Year Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended June 30, 2024	Year Ended June 30, 2023
District's proportion of the net pension liability	0.15129413%	0.15100708%	0.14777750%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 37,039,854	\$ 48,875,052	\$ 55,577,225
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 16,809,975	\$ 15,631,663	\$ 15,003,661
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	220.34%	312.67%	370.42%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	74.44%	65.91%	60.77%

Note: The amounts presented for each of the last ten fiscal years were determined as of September 30 of the preceding year.

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025**

	Year Ended June 30, 2022	Year Ended June 30, 2021	Year Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended June 30, 2019	Year Ended June 30, 2018	Year Ended June 30, 2017	Year Ended June 30, 2016
District's proportion of the net pension liability	0.14286653%	0.14347413%	0.14268735%	0.14120573%	0.14265519%	0.14571853%	0.13939359%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 33,824,240	\$ 49,284,924	\$ 47,253,253	\$ 42,448,992	\$ 36,968,024	\$ 36,355,581	\$ 34,046,922
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,859,335	\$ 12,626,680	\$ 12,528,837	\$ 11,956,963	\$ 11,679,762	\$ 12,622,898	\$ 11,714,549
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	263.03%	390.32%	377.16%	355.01%	316.51%	288.01%	290.64%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	72.60%	59.72%	60.31%	62.12%	63.96%	63.01%	62.92%

**SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)  
MPSERS COST-SHARING MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER PLAN**

	Year Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended June 30, 2024
District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.14994657%	0.15140577%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (6,454,297)	\$ (856,500)
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 16,809,975	\$ 15,631,663
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	(38.40%)	(5.48%)
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability (asset)	143.08%	105.04%

The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of September 30 of the preceding year.

Note: GASB Statement No 75 was implemented in fiscal year 2018. This schedule is being built prospectively.  
Ultimately, 10 years of data will be presented.

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025**

	Year Ended June 30, 2023	Year Ended June 30, 2022	Year Ended June 30, 2021	Year Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended June 30, 2019	Year Ended June 30, 2018
District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.14998953%	0.14254704%	0.14260715%	0.14352835%	0.14064806%	0.14268909%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 3,176,872	\$ 2,175,807	\$ 7,639,846	\$ 10,302,103	\$ 11,180,046	\$ 12,635,791
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 15,003,661	\$ 12,859,335	\$ 12,626,680	\$ 12,528,837	\$ 11,956,963	\$ 11,679,762
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	21.17%	16.92%	60.51%	82.23%	93.50%	108.19%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability (asset)	83.09%	87.33%	59.44%	48.46%	43.10%	36.53%

**SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
MPSERS COST-SHARING MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER PLAN**

	Year Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended June 30, 2024	Year Ended June 30, 2023
Contractually required contribution	\$ 6,408,207	\$ 6,359,062	\$ 5,523,646
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	6,408,207	6,359,062	5,523,646
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 17,240,873	\$ 15,997,730	\$ 15,327,461
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	37.17%	39.75%	36.04%

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025**

	Year Ended June 30, 2022	Year Ended June 30, 2021	Year Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended June 30, 2019	Year Ended June 30, 2018	Year Ended June 30, 2017	Year Ended June 30, 2016
	\$ 4,677,985	\$ 4,052,122	\$ 3,970,869	\$ 3,809,380	\$ 3,588,135	\$ 3,873,190	\$ 3,611,662
	4,677,985	4,052,122	3,970,869	3,809,380	3,588,135	3,873,190	3,611,662
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 13,792,262	\$ 12,640,411	\$ 12,653,895	\$ 12,536,773	\$ 11,993,853	\$ 12,303,086	\$ 12,118,723
	33.92%	32.06%	31.38%	30.39%	29.92%	31.48%	29.80%

**SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS  
MPSERS COST-SHARING MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER PLAN**

	Year Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended June 30, 2024	Year Ended June 30, 2023
Contractually required contribution	\$ 260,376	\$ 1,243,212	\$ 1,189,461
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>260,376</u>	<u>1,243,212</u>	<u>1,189,461</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 17,240,873	\$ 15,997,730	\$ 15,327,461
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	1.51%	7.77%	7.76%

Note: GASB Statement No 75 was implemented in fiscal year 2018. This schedule is being built prospectively. Ultimately, 10 years of data will be presented.

**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025**

	Year Ended June 30, 2022	Year Ended June 30, 2021	Year Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended June 30, 2019	Year Ended June 30, 2018
Contractually required contribution	\$ 1,075,744	\$ 1,012,295	\$ 1,003,153	\$ 991,595	\$ 885,530
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>1,075,744</u>	<u>1,012,295</u>	<u>1,003,153</u>	<u>991,595</u>	<u>885,530</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>				
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 13,792,262	\$ 12,640,411	\$ 12,653,895	\$ 12,536,773	\$ 11,993,853
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	7.80%	8.01%	7.93%	7.91%	7.38%

**NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
June 30, 2025

**Note A – Net Pension Liability and Contributions**

**Changes of benefit terms:** There were no changes of benefit terms in 2024-25.

**Changes of assumptions:** There were no changes of benefit assumptions in 2024-25.

**Note B – Net OPEB Liability (Asset) and Contributions**

**Changes of benefit terms:** There were no changes of benefit terms in 2024-25.

**Changes of assumptions:** There were no changes of benefit assumptions in 2024-25.

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**APPENDIX E**  
**FORM OF LEGAL OPINION**

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# THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

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## DRAFT LEGAL OPINION

Sparta Area Schools  
Counties of Kent and Ottawa  
State of Michigan

We have acted as bond counsel in connection with the issuance by Sparta Area Schools, Counties of Kent and Ottawa, State of Michigan (the “Issuer”), of its bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ designated 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the “Bonds”). The Bonds are in fully registered form and issued without coupons, are dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, are of \$5,000 denomination or any integral multiple thereof, are not subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the Issuer, mature on May 1 of each year, and bear interest payable on November 1, 2026, and semiannually thereafter on May 1 and November 1 of each year in the amounts and at the rates as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate</u>
-------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	---------------	-------------

The Bonds maturing on May 1, 20\_\_, are term Bonds subject to mandatory redemption in part, by lot, on the redemption dates and at the redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof as provided in the Bonds.

We have examined the documents which we deem authentic and pertinent to the validity of the Bonds, including the certified record evidencing the authorization of the Bonds by the board of education of the Issuer, a copy of the approval of the Department of Treasury of the State of Michigan to issue the Bonds, a signed copy of the certificate of the Treasurer of the State of Michigan qualifying the Bonds for purposes of Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution, and a specimen of the Bond certificates.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that under existing law:

(1) the Bonds have been lawfully authorized and issued and are enforceable obligations of the Issuer in accordance with their terms;

(2) the Bonds are the general obligation of the Issuer for which its full faith, credit and resources have been irrevocably pledged;



Sparta Area Schools  
Counties of Kent and Ottawa  
State of Michigan

\_\_\_\_\_, 2026  
Page 2

(3) the Issuer has the power, and is obligated, to levy taxes on all taxable property now situated within the corporate boundaries of the Issuer, without limitation as to rate or amount, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds;

(4) the Bonds have been fully qualified pursuant to Act 92, Public Acts of Michigan, 2005, as amended, enacted pursuant to Article IX, Section 16, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Under the terms of said constitutional and statutory provisions, if for any reason the Issuer will be or is unable to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds when due, then the Issuer shall borrow, and the State of Michigan shall lend to it, an amount sufficient to enable the Issuer to make the payment;

(5) the Issuer has designated the Bonds as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”);

(6) the Bonds and the interest thereon are exempt from all taxation in the State of Michigan, except inheritance and estate taxes and taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment or other disposition thereof; and

(7) the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals; however, interest on the Bonds held by an “applicable corporation” as defined in Section 59(k) of the Code is included in annual “adjusted financial statement income” for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on an applicable corporation. The opinions set forth in the preceding sentence are subject to the condition that the Issuer comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Issuer has covenanted to comply with such requirements. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements may cause the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in gross income for federal income tax purposes to be retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds.

The rights of the owners of the Bonds and the enforceability thereof may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors’ rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement of such rights may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

TLF/FGH

**APPENDIX F**  
**FORM OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

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**FORM OF  
CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

§ \_\_\_\_\_  
**SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
2026 REFUNDING BONDS  
(GENERAL OBLIGATION - UNLIMITED TAX)**

This Continuing Disclosure Agreement (the “Agreement”) is executed and delivered by Sparta Area Schools, Counties of Kent and Ottawa, State of Michigan (the “Issuer”), in connection with the issuance of its \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax) (the “Bonds”). The Bonds are being issued pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Board of Education of the Issuer on December 8, 2025 and \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 (together, the “Resolution”). The Issuer covenants and agrees as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose of the Disclosure Agreement. This Agreement is being executed and delivered by the Issuer for the benefit of the Bondholders and in order to assist the Participating Underwriter in complying with the Rule. The Issuer acknowledges that this Agreement does not address the scope of any application of Rule 10b-5 promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the 1934 Act to the Annual Reports or notices of the Listed Events provided or required to be provided by the Issuer pursuant to this Agreement.

SECTION 2. Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in the Resolution, which apply to any capitalized term used in this Agreement unless otherwise defined in this Section, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

“Annual Report” shall mean any Annual Report provided by the Issuer pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

“Bondholder” means the registered owner of a Bond or any person which (a) has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of, any Bonds (including any person holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries), or (b) is treated as the owner of any Bond for federal income tax purposes.

“Dissemination Agent” means any agent designated as such in writing by the Issuer and which has filed with the Issuer a written acceptance of such designation, and such agent’s successors and assigns.

“EMMA” shall mean the MSRB’s Electronic Municipal Market Access which provides continuing disclosure services for the receipt and public availability of continuing disclosure documents and related information required by Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the SEC.

“Financial Obligation” shall mean (a) a debt obligation, (b) a derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation, or (c) a guarantee of (a) or (b) provided; however, that a “Financial Obligation”



shall not include any municipal security for which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with the Rule.

“Listed Events” shall mean any of the events listed in Section 5(a) of this Agreement.

“MSRB” shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

“1934 Act” shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“Official Statement” shall mean the final Official Statement for the Bonds dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

“Participating Underwriter” shall mean any of the original underwriters of the Bonds required to comply with the Rule in connection with the offering of the Bonds.

“Resolution” shall mean the resolutions duly adopted by the Issuer authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds.

“Rule” shall mean Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the SEC pursuant to the 1934 Act, as the same may be amended from time to time.

“SEC” shall mean the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“State” shall mean the State of Michigan.

### SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Reports.

(a) Each year, the Issuer shall provide, or shall cause the Dissemination Agent to provide, on or prior to the end of the sixth month after the end of the fiscal year of the Issuer commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to EMMA an Annual Report for the preceding fiscal year which is consistent with the requirements of Section 4 of this Agreement. Currently, the Issuer’s fiscal year ends on June 30. In each case, the Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package, and may include by specific reference other information as provided in Section 4 of this Agreement; provided, however, that if the audited financial statements of the Issuer are not available by the deadline for filing the Annual Report, they shall be provided when and if available, and unaudited financial statements in a format similar to the financial statements contained in the Official Statement shall be included in the Annual Report.

(b) The Annual Report shall be submitted to EMMA either through a web-based electronic submission interface or through electronic computer-to-computer data connections with EMMA in accordance with the submission process, document format and configuration requirements established by the MSRB. The Annual Report shall also include all related information required by MSRB to accurately identify: (i) the category of information being provided; (ii) the period covered by the Annual Report; (iii) the issues or specific securities to which the Annual Report is related (including CUSIP number, Issuer name, state, issue description/securities name, dated date, maturity date, and/or coupon rate); (iv) the name of any obligated person other than the Issuer; (v) the name and date of the document; and (vi) contact information for the Dissemination Agent or the Issuer’s submitter.

(c) If the Issuer is unable to provide to EMMA an Annual Report by the date required in subsection (a), the Issuer shall send a notice in a timely manner to the MSRB in substantially the form attached as Appendix A.

(d) If the Issuer's fiscal year changes, the Issuer shall send a notice of such change to the MSRB in substantially the form attached as Appendix B. If such change will result in the Issuer's fiscal year ending on a date later than the ending date prior to such change, the Issuer shall provide notice of such change to the MSRB on or prior to the deadline for filing the Annual Report in effect when the Issuer operated under its prior fiscal year. Such notice may be provided to the MSRB along with the Annual Report, provided that it is filed at or prior to the deadline described above.

SECTION 4. Content of Annual Reports. The Issuer's Annual Report shall contain or include by reference the following:

(a) audited financial statements of the Issuer prepared pursuant to State laws, administrative rules and guidelines and pursuant to accounting and reporting policies conforming in all material respects to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units as such principles are prescribed, in part, by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and modified by the Government Accounting Standards Board and in effect from time to time; and

(b) additional annual financial information and operating data as set forth in the Official Statement under "CONTINUING DISCLOSURE".

Any or all of the items listed above may be included by specific reference to other documents, including official statements of debt issues of the Issuer or related public entities, which previously have been provided to each of the Repositories or filed with the SEC. If the document included by specific reference is a final official statement, it must be available from the MSRB. The Issuer shall clearly identify each such other document so included by reference.

SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events.

(a) The Issuer covenants to provide, or cause to be provided, notice in a timely manner not in excess of ten business days of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds in accordance with the Rule:

- (1) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the security;
- (7) modifications to rights of security holders, if material;
- (8) bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) defeasances;

- (10) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material;
- (11) rating changes;
- (12) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer or other obligated person;
- (13) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or other obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer or other obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (14) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;
- (15) incurrence of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, any of which affect security holders, if material;
- (16) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a Financial Obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(b) Whenever the Issuer obtains knowledge of the occurrence of a Listed Event, the Issuer shall as soon as possible determine if such event would constitute material information for the Bondholders, provided that any event other than those listed under Section 5(a)(2), (6), (7), (8), (10), (13), (14) or (15) above will always be deemed to be material. Events listed under Section 5(a)(6) and (8) above will always be deemed to be material except with respect to that portion of those events which must be determined to be material.

(c) The Issuer shall promptly cause a notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event, determined to be material in accordance with the Rule, to be electronically filed with EMMA, together with a significant event notice cover sheet substantially in the form attached as Appendix C. In connection with providing a notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event described in Section 5(a)(9) above, the Issuer shall include in the notice explicit disclosure as to whether the Bonds have been escrowed to maturity or escrowed to call, as well as appropriate disclosure of the timing of maturity or call.

(d) The Issuer acknowledges that the “rating changes” referred to above in Section 5(a)(11) of this Agreement may include, without limitation, any change in any rating on the Bonds or other indebtedness for which the Issuer is liable, or on any indebtedness for which the State is liable.

(e) The Issuer acknowledges that it is not required to provide a notice of a Listed Event with respect to credit enhancement when the credit enhancement is added after the primary offering of the Bonds, the Issuer does not apply for or participate in obtaining such credit enhancement, and such credit enhancement is not described in the Official Statement.

#### SECTION 6. Termination of Reporting Obligation.

(a) The Issuer's obligations under this Agreement shall terminate upon the legal defeasance of the Resolution or the prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds.

(b) This Agreement, or any provision hereof, shall be null and void in the event that the Issuer (i) receives an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, addressed to the Issuer, to the effect that those portions of the Rule, which require such provisions of this Agreement, do not or no longer apply to the Bonds, whether because such portions of the Rule are invalid, have been repealed, amended or modified, or are otherwise deemed to be inapplicable to the Bonds, as shall be specified in such opinion, and (ii) delivers notice to such effect to the MSRB.

SECTION 7. Dissemination Agent. The Issuer, from time to time, may appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under this Agreement, and may discharge any such Dissemination Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent.

SECTION 8. Amendment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended, and any provision of this Agreement may be waived to the effect that:

(a) such amendment or waiver is made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, a change in law or a change in the identity, nature or status of the Issuer, or the types of business in which the Issuer is engaged;

(b) this Agreement as so amended or taking into account such waiver, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances, in the opinion of independent legal counsel; and

(c) such amendment or waiver does not materially impair the interests of the Bondholders, in the opinion of independent legal counsel.

If the amendment or waiver results in a change to the annual financial information required to be included in the Annual Report pursuant to Section 4 of this Agreement, the first Annual Report that contains the amended operating data or financial information shall explain, in narrative form, the reasons for the amendment and the impact of such change in the type of operating data or financial information being provided. If the amendment or waiver involves a change in the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements, the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made shall present a comparison between the financial statements or information prepared based on the new accounting principles and those prepared based on the former accounting principles. The comparison should include a qualitative discussion of such differences and the impact of the changes on the presentation of the financial information. To the extent reasonably feasible, the comparison should also be quantitative. A notice of the change in the accounting principles should be sent by the Issuer to the MSRB. Further, if the annual financial information required to be provided in the Annual Report can no longer be generated because the operations to which it related have been materially changed or discontinued, a statement to that effect shall be included in the first Annual Report that does not include such information.

SECTION 9. Additional Information. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the Issuer from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Agreement or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Agreement. If the Issuer chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event in addition to that which is specifically required by this Agreement, the Issuer shall have no obligation under this Agreement to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

SECTION 10. Default. In the event of a failure of the Issuer to comply with any provision of this Agreement, any Bondholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the Issuer to comply with its obligations under this Agreement. A default under this Agreement shall not be deemed an Event of Default under the Resolution or the Bonds, and the sole remedy under this Agreement in the event of any failure of the Issuer to comply with the Agreement shall be an action to compel performance.

SECTION 11. Duties of Dissemination Agent. The Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Agreement.

SECTION 12. Beneficiaries. This Agreement shall inure solely to the benefit of the Issuer, the Dissemination Agent, the Participating Underwriter, and the Bondholders and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

SECTION 13. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State, and any suits and actions arising out of this Agreement shall be instituted in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent this Agreement addresses matters of federal securities laws, including the Rule, this Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with such federal securities laws and official interpretations thereof.

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

**APPENDIX A**

NOTICE TO THE MSRB OF FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT

Name of Issuer:           Sparta Area Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan  
Name of Bond Issue:    2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax)  
Date of Bonds:           \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above-named Bonds as required by Section 3 of its Continuing Disclosure Agreement with respect to the Bonds. The Issuer anticipates that the Annual Report will be filed by \_\_\_\_\_.

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX B**

NOTICE TO THE MSRB OF CHANGE IN ISSUER'S FISCAL YEAR

Name of Issuer:           Sparta Area Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan  
Name of Bond Issue:    2026 Refunding Bonds (General Obligation - Unlimited Tax)  
Date of Bonds:           \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer's fiscal year has changed. Previously, the Issuer's fiscal year ended on \_\_\_\_\_. It now ends on \_\_\_\_\_.

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS  
COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Superintendent

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX C

### SIGNIFICANT EVENT NOTICE COVER SHEET

This cover sheet and significant event notice should be provided in an electronic format to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(5)(i)(C) and (D).

Issuer's and/or other Obligated Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Issuer's Six-Digit CUSIP Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

or Nine-Digit CUSIP Number(s) to which this significant event notice relates: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages of attached significant event notice: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Significant Events Notice (Check One):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Principal and interest payment delinquencies
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Non-payment related defaults
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the security
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Modifications to rights of security holders
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Bond calls
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tender offers
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Defeasances
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Rating changes
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer or other obligated person
14. \_\_\_\_\_ The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or other obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer or other obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Incurrence of a financial obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation that affect security holders
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer or other obligated person that reflect financial difficulties
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Other significant event notice (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby represent that I am authorized by the issuer or its agent to distribute this information publicly:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**The MSRB Gateway is [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org) or through the EMMA portal at [emma.msrb.org/submission/Submission\\_Portal.aspx](http://emma.msrb.org/submission/Submission_Portal.aspx). Contact the MSRB at (703) 797-6600 with questions regarding this form or the dissemination of this notice. The cover sheet and notice may also be faxed to the MAC at (313) 963-0943.**



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